THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BOMBAY BRANCH

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER.

IT is reported that Major H. Cooper will accompany the Viceregal party to Rome; but before he bids adieu to Lord Dufferin there, it is said he is to be suitably rewarded for the valuable services rendered by him in connection with the Countess of Dufferin's Fund. Major Cooper will after this take over command of the battalion to which he is attached in India.

A DRAMA having Mahomed for its central figure is to be one of the novelties next winter in Paris. It represents that period of hesitation and ambition, when Mahomed was being urged by the monk Georgios to consecrate his energies to the spread of Christianity; and the sequel, in which the prophet resolves to launch a new religious system, is said to be powerfully portrayed by the writer to the play, Henri de Bornier.

THE following change in the Regulation for the Entrance Examination of the University of Calcutta has been sanctioned by the Senate, and approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council: *Drawing*—An optional examination shall be held in drawing. If a candidate passes, the fact shall be notified in his certificate; but success or failure in that subject shall not affect his success or failure in the Entrance Examination or his position in the pass list.

THE largest umbrella in the world has been made in Glasgow for a king of East Africa. It can be opened and shut in the usual way, and when open is twenty-one feet in diameter; the staff is also twenty feet long. The canopy is made of Italian straw, and the top terminates in a gilded cone.

THE Empress-Dowager of China has announced her inteded retirement from all share in the Government next March, when the Emperor will assume the sole responsibility.

A VERY important measure has just passed the German Federal Council. It proposes to make provision for work-people—whose number is estimated at 12,000,000—who become incapacitated by age or by illness. Every man, on reaching the age of seventy, or on being an invalid, is to receive an allowance commencing at 120 marks (£6), and rising to 150 marks (£12-10s.) Women are to receive two-thirds of the amounts named. The money is to be raised by equal contributions from employers and employed—man paying 21 pfennings per week, woman 14 pfennings. The Empire contributes one-third of the yearly amount needed.

THE reports called for by his Excellency the Viceroy from Local Governments regarding the material condition of the people of India, have reached head-quarters at Simla, where they are being duly collated.

"I HEARD," writes a London correspondent, "some cornet-playing yesterday, originally given out in America, which has been repeated in England more than a thousand times, and all the notes are still as distinct and clear as ever. The sensitiveness of the phonograph is also very extraordinary. It was taken to the Crystal Palace for the Handel Festival, and it registered the perfect roar of Niagara which arose from the movements of the multitude. Mr. Edison's secret lies mainly in the construction of his diaphragm. He uses two. To one is attached the needle which makes the record. It is the recording angel. To the other, more sensitive, is attached a pointer not much thicker than hair, but strong enough to cause vibration in the diaphragm, and to send forth the sound to the ear. I hear that Mr. Edison has abandoned, for the present at all events, his wax cylinders. They had failed to go safely across the Atlantic. Curious people handled them and spoilt them. Mr. Edison is now at work preparing a new recording substance. At the same time he is also inventing a battery warranted to work ten hours, and recording the time during which it has been used. The wonderful invention is approaching, but has not yet reached, absolute perfection."

TUESDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER.

THE Parnell Commission met on this day Sir James Hannen, the Chairman, announced that the conduct of the inquiry would be on the lines of an ordinary action in a Court of Law, and that the *Times*, being the accuser, would open the case. Sir Charles Russell appeared as counsel for the Parnellites, and Sir Richard Webster for the *Times*, Sir Charles Russell's demand for the production of the forged letters was granted. The Commission afterwards adjourned until October the 22nd.

THE Government of India has exempted from customs duties the baggage of all ruling Chiefs of Feudatory States in India, who are entitled to be called "his Highness," arriving at or departing by sea from all ports in British India. Under orders issued in 1861 the Gaekwar of Baroda and the Maharajas Scindiah and Holkar have the privilege of importing, free of customs duties, articles intended for their personal use. This concession has now been extended to other native rulers of equal rank, such as the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Maharaja of Mysore, and any Chief whose permanent salute is not less than nineteen guns.

AN unprecedentedly daring attempt to swindle the Postal Department of Rs. 65,000, under the facility offered by the value-payable system, has just been discovered at Madras. A sub-magistrate of Tinnevelly and a native of Chingleput are reported to be implicated. The case is under investigation.

THE French Admiralty have issued orders to French men-of-war on the east coast of Africa to chase all slavers, and especially if under the French flag.

THE Emperor of Austria has publicly rebuked the Croatian Bishop Strosmayer for having sent a telegram to the Russian clergy invoking blessings on Russia's worldwide mission. The Russian papers are indignant at this, and declare that Austria is exhausting Russia's patience.

THE Government of India, the Lahore paper hears, have refused to give Mr. Larpent any pension or gratuity.

UNDER arrangements recently made, the mail service between Bombay and the Punjab *via* Rajputana is to be accelerated. Some three hours will be gained on the journey from Bombay to Delhi.

HIS HIGHNESS the Maharajah Holkar has allotted Rs. 50,000 for a new building to accommodate the civil and criminal courts, near the railway station, opposite to the cotton mills The foundation stone will be laid during the Dussera festival. The construction of pubic roads in Rampura and Nimad districts has also been sanctioned at a heavy cost.

THE following is the history of the case of a *suttee* which recently occurred in the Cawnpore District:—About ten miles from Rura, on the East Indian line, a Brahmin villager had died, and his body was in due course committed to the flames. The fire had not burnt down, though the mourners had dispersed, when the widow crept down to the scene, and threw herself on the pyre beside the remains of her husband. By the time the deed was discovered, she was dead. The police are satisfied that no suspicion attaches to her friends and relations for prompting or encouraging the act.

A Belgian traveller named Vanele, who has just arrived at Bressets from the Congo, says that he is confident of the fidelity of Tippoo-Tib, and believes Stanley to be safe.

EXTENSIVE siege operations will be carried on near Rurki this cold weather. Five garrison batteries will take part.

NEWS of the capture of fort Kamard by the Amir's troops has been fully confirmed This occurred on the 12th instant. The Amir's toops are moving from Kamard and Khingan on Heibak.

INFORMATION has been received in Mandalay that Lieutennat Beevor, R. E., attached to the Public Works Department, was found murdered in his bed at Htigyaing in the Shwebo district, on the morning of Saturday, the 15th instant. He is said to have met his death at the hands of dakaits who surrounded his house. The only further news regarding the murder is that a Burmese servant, who decamped on the morning of the crime, is suspected. Two or three others are thought to be concerned in the affair, which the police are now actively investigating.

WEDNESDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER.

IN spite of the heavy rains the work on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway is making satisfactory progress. The largest bridge on the Raipur-Bilaspur section has been completed, and will be opened about the 15th proximo. The structure is one of 14 spans of 150 feet.

THE application of the microphone to military tactics has been on trial for some time at Montauban, France. The originator of the idea is Lieutenant Desbordieu, of the 132nd Regiment of Territorial Infantry. The adaptation of the instrument has proved most valuable for the purposes of reconnoitring, by giving an automatic warning of the passage of troops along a probable line of march at a distance of many miles. The contrivance consists essentially of a sounding plate which is buried in the soil underneath an expected route of the enemy, and an electric wire which connects it with an ordinary microphone at head-quarters. So delicate were the sounds which were emitted, that the difference between a foot and horse regiment could be easily detected, and an approximate idea could be obtained of the numbers of the advancing host. Generals Vincendon and De Sonis with their staff were present at the experiments, and they were sufficiently impressed with the practical utility of the apparatus that a report was sent to the Minister of War. Orders have subsequently been received by the inventor to continue his experiments under official superintendence and technical advice.

AT a recent meeting of the Bengal Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society an account was given of a peculiar custom practised by the aboriginal tribes in the neighbourhood of Ranchi, for the purpose of expelling the cholera demon. It is taken part in by women, who dress themselves in men's clothes, arm themselves with weapons, and go out to hunt. They do not, however, take to the jungles in quest of game, but visit the nearest villages lying to the east of them, when they hunt the pigs and fowls, and everything they kill is their legitimate spoil. They also levy blackmail from the heads of the villages for the purchase of liquor. Towards evening the shikar party retire to some neighbouring stream, where they cook and eat the meat, and drink the liquor. They eat neither rice nor anything else at this meal. After supping they bathe in the stream and then return home. On such occasions no men are allowed to accompany the women. The ceremony commences in the west, and each village that has been visited goes out on a similar excursion to its neighbours, but always to the east. By this means it is supposed that the evil spirit is safely conducted out of the district, without offending its dignity.

THE longest straight reach of railway in the world is on the new Argentine Pacific Railway, from Buenos Ayres to the foot of the Andes. For a distance of 211 miles the line is laid without a curve. There is neither a cutting nor an embankment which is deeper or higher than one yard.

A SPECIFIC for snake-bites is going the round of the papers. It is stated that a black pepper put into a peacock's egg should be placed on a *nim* tree for some days, and the latter ground and given with a little water to anyone bitten by a snake will cure him. Another remedy suggested is to smoke the bird's feathers with tobacco.

THE total claims against the late Burmese Government aggregated 98 lakhs. There were 393 claimants, including 9 British, 3 American, 15 French, 16 Italian, one Swiss, one German, 3 Eurasian, 6 Armenian, 2 Persian and 9 Chinese; the remainder were Burmese and natives of India. The only claims paid in full were the salaries of Europeans who had been employed by the late Burmese Government. The claims for goods supplied and money advanced to the ex-Queen Soopyalat were rejected. The total awarded was 8½ lakhs.

THURSDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER.

THE total number of persons killed in accidents upon Indian Railway during 1887 was 428, of whom 47 were passengers, and 161 railway servants, or servants of contractors. During the same period the total number injured amounted to 961, including 51 passengers and 472 railway or contractors' servants. The number of train accidents per 1,000 miles was 0·69.

A MEDICAL correspondent thus writes to the *Times*:—"Having found, in the course of my private practice and that of the hospital, a marked increase in cases of malignant throat diseases, I together with some of my colleagues, have made some very careful researches into the causes of this, and finding that males were almost exclusively affected led us on the track that smoking was in a great many instances the primary cause. I am not by any means one of those who consider the pipe, a cigar, or the ordinary cigarette injurious; but am persuaded that the cigarette imported from Egypt or Turkey is mixed, presumably to give it a peculiar taste or flavour, with some insidious poison. I am led to this conclusion by a careful analysis of both the home manufacture and that of the foreign; in the latter a large proportion of opium and an unclassified alkaloid was manifest, which was totally absent in the former, and it will be obvious that an irritant poison constantly brought into contact with the region of, perhaps, the most sensitive part of the human orgnization is calculated to bring about trouble. I will not trespass on your space to go into further minutiæ, or give a lengthy account of the experiment that resulted in the conclusions arrived at; suffice it for the present that I venture to address you in order to caution the public against a serious danger that lurks in their midst."

AN influential Council has been formed in London to agitate against the excise administration in India.

THE Gaekwar has, it is said, retained the services of Mr. Goldring, and commissioned him to lay out a park on the hills overlooking Baroda, which is to exceed both in beauty and extent anything ever yet attempted. Before commencing his task, Mr. Goldring is to visit all the Native Courts in India to see what he has to surpass.

THE *Civil and Military Gazette* says:—"It is reported on the Frontier, that the 'enemy' have fled across the Indus. They endeavoured in vain to secure a combination of the tribes, finding the feeling dead against them. This, if true, will be very disappointing, for although our great desire must be to prevent a hostile combination of the tribes, it would be much better that they should give us an opportunity of teaching them a sudden and sharp lesson. Otherwise the campaign, this side of the Indus, would be merely a village and crop-destroying excursion."

THE *Morning Post* understands that "the paper in connection with the affairs of the Bhopal State are now before the Viceroy."

THE Chinese Minister in Washington has threatened that if the Chinese, who have lived in the United States, are prohibited from returning after a temporary absence., China will retaliate by excluding American petroleum.

IT is rumoured that the researches into the history of some of the claims before the Debt Commission which Sir Asman Jah directed to be made some months since, have disclosed some very remarkable facts. The results are being embodied in a report for submission to his Highness' Government, which will probably be ready in a month or so. There is said to be most conclusive evidence that many of the claims are absolutely baseless.

A JUMMOO correspondent declares that contrary to statements that have been published, the Hunza rebellion has been entirely subdued for some time. The rebels, he asserts, have surrendered the forts, and the son of Jafar Khan, the leader of the revolt, with other representatives, has left Gilgit on his way to Jummoo to offer apologies for his past misconduct. The forts are now, it is repeated, in the possession of the Cashmere forces.

IN the Dacca Commissioner's report for last year we find the following: "A marked feature of the division is the institution of agricultural loan banks at various local centres. These banks now exist in many districts of Bengal, and their number and importance show a satisfactory tendency to increase. In the Dacca division there are now ten of such banks duly registered: two in Dacca, one in Furreedpore, one in Backergunge, and six in Mymensing. Of these the Furreedpore Loan Office is the most successful. It is said to be in a flourishing condition and on a thoroughly sound basis."

FRIDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER.

To advertise for a wife through the columns of newspapers has become common, but by means of the town-crier is decidedly a novel idea, and 'I regret to see,' says Mr. Labouchere in *Truth*, 'that the magistrates of Millport, have censured their crier for making himself the mouthpiece of a would-be Benedick. The crier, it seemed, had been perambulating the streets announcing that "a young man of fair means wishes to communicate with a lady of good figure with a view to matrimony. Applications by letter to the White Hart Hotel, Large.' The aspirant's wants are so modest, as a good figure is all that he requires, that I have no doubt he is by this time overwhelmed with offers.'

MR. ANDREW PEARS, head of the great firm of advertisers who have made the name of Pears' soap known throughout the civilised world, has been interviewed, by a reporter of the *Sunday Times*. Mr. Pears says that he is not ashamed to confess that the firm gets £70,000 a year out of the business. The annual increase of their profits is alone a fortune. "This year the actual increase will be from £40,000 to £50,000." On being asked whether advertising had not a good deal to do with this success, Mr. Pears said "Undoubtedly. I rather think we have taught even our Yankee cousins a lesson in that. But advertisement is of no use unless you advertise a good article. If you have a good article, don't hide your light under a bushel. That is my advice. But advertising is a very expensive amusement. This year our bill for that item alone reaches £100,000, not one penny of which is, I consider, thrown away. Advertising is a fine art, and Mr. Barratt, in whose department it lies, is the best master of the art I have ever known. I cannot say off hand, without reference, how many copies of Millais's 'Bubbles' we have sent out; but that advertisement has already cost us over £20,000. We paid Millais £2,000 for it down."

IN the Washington Senate Vice-President John Sherman advocates the union of Canada with the United States, at the same time preserving the local autonomy of both.

THE failure of the rains in the Ahmednugger district of the Bombay Presidency is causing serious apprehension, and a famine is looked upon as a certainty. A correspondent, writing to a Bombay paper, states that the prices of food-grains have already risen 50 per cent., and grass and fodder are selling at famine rates; and, as usual at such times, the grasping Marwaries and other merchants are busy in speculating and making what are known as *sutta* bargains in all kinds of grains, their agents having been sent to different parts to purchase and import corn. This forming of "corners" is peculiar to Marwaries and Bunnias during periods of scarcity. To add to these troubles, reports of robberies and thefts are daily received from the districts, and travelling by the common roads has become quite unsafe. The local Government is therefore appealed to earnestly with a view to taking prompt action for the introduction of relief measures before the distress becomes too widespread.

THE Government of India has recently laid down an important principle regarding the grant of special remuneration to its servants for duties imposed by law. The Indian Factories Act of 1881 forbids the employment in factories of a child under the age of seven years, and defines a "child" as a person under the age of twelve years. Under another provision of the Act a Civil Surgeon, appointed in this behalf, must, at the request of any person empolyed in factory, or desirous of being so employed, or of the parent or guardian of such person, examine such person and grant him a certificate stating his age as nearly as he can. Now these duties may very often make heavy demands on the time and leisure of medical officers; and, recognising this fact, both the Governments of Bengal and Bombay have hitherto allowed fees for the extra duty. In Bengal a fee of four annas for every certificate of age was admissible, and in Bombay certifying surgeons were permitted to accept a fee of one rupee per head when a child was sent for examination by mill-owners themselves. Recently, however, the Government of Bombay, being desirous of adopting the Bengal practice, addressed the Government of India with this view. The reference was taken advantage of by the Governor-General in Council to rule that the grant of remuneration to salaried officers of Government for duties imposed by the law is open to objection on principle.

SATURDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER.

AUSTRIA and Germany jointly approached King Milan with the view of inducing him to become reconciled to Queen Nathalie, and to stop the divorce proceeding.

AN Army Circular notifies that, with the view of increasing the efficiency of the Haidrabad Contingent, certain changes in the conditions of service have been authorised. The number of British officers for each regiment will be increased from four to six, one to be added during the current year, and one during 1889-90.

THE Madras Government have issued a notification laying down certain rules for taxing toddy-producing trees The present measure absolutely prohibits the tapping of a tree unless a license has been taken out and the prescribed fee has been paid. Other vexatious restrictions have been placed upon the toddy vendors, calculated to cause conisderable dissatisfaction, and to produce friction between the vendors and the excise officials.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—'The Assistant Superintendent of Police, Berhampore, Mr. Allen, on the night of the 27th ultimo went to a house occupied by a Christian lady, whose husband holds a high Government post in the Agricultural Department, but is now in France on deputation, and tried to enter it, when the male relatives of the lady prevented him from doing so. At last the whole family in a fright drove to the house of our sub-judge, who is a relative of the lady's husband, and informed him of all that had occurred. The next morning before any formal complaint could be made to the authorities, the Magistrate of the district, with the District Superintendent of Police, went to the house of Mr. Allen, and at once a telegram was sent to the Bengal Government to transfer Mr. Allen to some other place.' An inquiry should certainly be made into the matter.

THE German Emperor is exceedingly bitter (says *Truth*) against the Queen, and one of the official papers at Berlin has been instructed to announce that Germany and Russia have decided to treat England "as non-existent." Her Majesty has expressed her opinion, in the strongest possible terms, that her grandson has behaved very badly towards his mother, that he insulted her, and that he manifested gross disrespect towards his father's memory by rushing off to join in a series of festivities at a foreign Court before the wreaths on the late Emperor's coffin were withered. The young Emperor, in whom filial affection or respect for his "forbears" are not strong points, has responded to these exhortations with at least equal acrimony, and is said to have adopted a truculent tone in his correspondence with his English relatives, for which a precedent might in vain be searched in the annals of the Queen's reign. Her Majesty and the Empress Augusta are in perfect accord on the subject, and the Empress has espoused the side of her daughter-in-law with great zeal throughout the quarrel."

THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, BOW-BAZAR STREET).

(SESSION 1888-9.)

LECTURE by Babu Asutosh Mukerjee, M. A. F. R. A. S., F. R. S. E. on *Monday*, the *24th Inst.*, at 4 P. M

Subject: Theory of Analytic Functions. Indeterminate Forms.

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on *Tuesday*, the *25th Inst.* at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Pressures of Vapors. Hygrometry.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Ram Chandra Datta. F. C. S., on *Thursday* the *27th Inst.*, at 4½ P. M.

Subject: Mercury.

LECTURE by the Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., C. I. E., on *Thursday*, the *27th Inst.* at 7½ P. M.

Subject: The Human Eye.

LECTURE by Babu Mahendra Nath Ray, M. A., on *Friday* the *28th Inst.* at 4½ P. M.

Subject: The Third Law of Motion. Atwood's Machine and Analogous Problems.

LECTURE by Babu Pramatha Nath Bose, B. Sc. F. G. S., on *Friday*, the *28th Inst.* at 6 P. M.

Subject: Sketch of Indian Geology.

LECTURE by Babu Taraprasanna Roy, F. C. S. F. I. C.; on *Saturday*, the *29th Inst.*, at 3½ P. M.

Subject: Chemical Composition of Water and Compounds of Nitrogen.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,
September 22nd, 1888. *Honorary Secretary.*

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The Hindoo Patriot

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1888.

THE GREAT MEETING AT NORTHAMPTON.

A GREAT public meeting was recently held at the the Northampton Town Hall to consider the grievances of the people of India, under the presidency of the Mayor of that town. The chief speakers on the occasion were Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee and Mr. Charles Bradlaugh, the junior member of the borough. The Chairman opened the proceedings with a neat little speech. He expressed his thorough sympathy with the object of the meeting, and hoped that the time is not distant when India would have that representative Government which is the honour and glory of England. Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji then addressed the meeting. He said that although foreign rule would be hateful to any country, there were circumstances which made the people of India thoroughly attached to the British rule. England has conferred numerous benefits upon India. Well did Mr. Naoroji say that the National Congress is the result of the good work which England has accomplished during the present century—a result of which she might well be proud. But at the same time it must be confessed that the British rule has not proved an unalloyed blessing. Mr. Naoroji drew the attention of the British public to the question of poverty in India, which he has for years made his special study. He observed:—"It is the one rock, the one thing, the one test, which in its settlement will either make British rule a blessing to India, or Heaven knows what distress it may bring forth. It is a question you will have to grapple with sooner or later in England; and you must bear in mind what this poverty means. It is a question not so much of production as of distribution. You must have such distribution that every man labouring will have a fair share of the good things of the earth. This is the question of questions for the future in India. For whereas, while you are paying something like 50 shillings per head for Government purposes only, we do not produce more than 30 or 40 shillings per head. You will have to set yourselves to remove this evil." Mr. Naoroji also referred to the great question of representation, and explained that what the Congress asked is something quite different from Government by Parliament. He showed that the Legislative Councils in India are shams, and that the non-official members nominated by the Government are not responsible for what they do. In conclusion, Mr. Naoroji appealed to the British public to fulfil the solemn pledges which they had over and over again made to the people of India. He was followed by Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, who strongly insisted on the fact that there is no responsible Government for India at all. Mr. Bonnerjee pertinently observed that if the Indian people had some voice in the Government of their country, they would be able to make its rulers give an account of what they have done. He rightly warned the British public against accepting rose-coloured official reports as true information, and showed clearly how the present system of making laws is productive of incalculable mischief. It is notorious that in our Legislative Councils, as they are now constituted, there is no incentive to the expression of Native Opinion, and, when expressed, it has little practical effect. This being the case, it is not a matter of surprise that legislation under the present system has frequently not been in consonance with the wants, wishes and feelings of the people; and that it has proved fruitful of changes and innovations, which has, instead of advancing the country, done very much to retard it. Mr. Bonnerjee also made it clear that the people of India do not want representative institutions in the form in which they exist in England. He pointed out that for good or for evil India has become bound up with England, and thus concluded:—"You cannot, after having carried her so far, turn her adrift, and of her own will India will never ask to be allowed to go adrift. It is necessary for the peace of both countries—this great country as well as her great dependency—that some method should be devised by which the people will be more contented, the people will get more to eat, the people will be able to discharge the duties of citizenship. You are a superior nation, you are governing the country and it behoves you, one and all, to take pride in measures which will be a blessing not only to India, but to this country."

Mr. Charles Bradlaugh next rose and delivered a remarkable speech. We are exceedingly glad to find that Mr. Bradlaugh deprecated the idea of making India a party question. He remarked: "The man is the most wicked enemy of the natives of India who tries to make it a party question. I am party man enough, but I do not deny that there are men in the parties, opposed to me, of broad humanity, of high intellect, of great statesmanship, men who by the chance of party strife in this country, whether we will or no, must often have the reins of Indian Government in their hands. And I take it that the happiness of these 200 millions should not depend on whether I sit on this side of the House or that; but that we should make common cause for the men we have conquered, not to hold themselves as slaves but hold them as brethren of us all." Nothing could be a greater misfortune to this country than that it should be made the sport of party politics in England. It is really a matter of joy that Mr. Bradlaugh who has so kindly undertaken, with the permission of his constituents, to bring Indian grievances before the House of Commons, entertains sound views upon this question. Mr. Bradlaugh announced his intention of moving early next year in the House of Commons for the appointment of a Commission consisting of Europeans and Natives and with power to take evidence alike in England and in India to enquire into the grievances of India. We hope earnestly that Mr. Bradlaugh will be able to secure the support of Lord Randolph Churchill to his proposed motion, as his Lordship has pledged himself to a Parliamentary inquiry into Indian affairs. Referring to the poverty of this country, Mr. Bradlaugh quoted the testimony of Sir William Hunter to the effect that even in the best of times no less than 40 millions of people are always on the verge of starvation, and he pointed out on the authority of Parliamentary Returns that between the years 1860 and 1878 twelve millions died of starvation. All right-minded persons will agree with Mr. Bradlaugh that it is monstrous that neither in England nor in India is there any control over the expenditure of India amounting to 70 millions a year. This being the case, the National Congress demands that the annual Budget should be discussed in the Legislative Council, and asks for reorganisation of that Council. These demands are reasonable and moderate and they have been strongly supported even by a staunch Conservative like Sir Richard Garth. On the great question of Civil Service reform, Mr. Bradlaugh explained that all that the Natives of India ask for is, that the pledge given to them in the matter of their higher employment in the public service be fulfilled. He said:—"An Act of Parliament was passed, and we have cheated the natives. The words of a solemn pledge we put into the mouth of Her Majesty when we assumed Imperial authority; and we have cheated the natives, and in confidential reports we boast of having cheated them. I appeal to you, the men of Northampton, I appeal to you, the town, the electorate, the constituency, which by your aid to my unworthy self have written yourselves indelibly in the pages of this century's history, to make me to be the advocate of these cheated men in the House of Commons." Mr. Bradlaugh's appeal, we hope, will be heartily responded to not only by the men of Northampton, but by the whole British nation. He showed conclusively that the people of India are patient and law-abiding, and observed:—"I was reading the criminal statistics of the present year, and I find that in the gaols of Madras there is one in 247 of the Europeans—that is us, one in 509 of the Eurasians—that is the mixture; and one in 3,787 of the Hindoos. Of course I am proud of my superiority as an Englishman. If I were in Madras, I should go to gaol on the average at least 18 times oftener than the *Hindoo*. I do not say that to jest upon it, but to point this out to you, that is, that they are not a hard people to rule unless we drive them wild. They are a patient people, and Western civilisation can have the best of them in every struggle." Such a people surely deserve the sympathy and support of the great and noble British nation.

Some other gentlemen addressed the meeting. Alderman Gurney proposed the following resolution:—"That this meeting of the inhabitants of Northampton and its neighbourhood, having heard the grievances of the Indian people stated by representative Indians and by others, and having had laid before it the reforms put forward by the Indian National Congress, declares that in its opinion the grievances from which our Indian fellow-subjects are suffering should be removed, and believes that the reforms advocated by the Congress will be greatly helpful to this end; this meeting, therefore, expresses its most cordial sympathy with the efforts which, by constitutional means, the Indian people are making to obtain the redress of their grievances through the good-will and help of the British people; and the persons present pledge themselves, by every means in their power, to move the British Parliament to grant the reforms so temperately and so forcibly advocated." In moving this resolution, Alderman Gurney expressed his surprise that the people of India are so very moderate in their demands. He did not see any reason why they should not have the same rights and privileges as any other civilised nation. The resolution was seconded by Councillor Campion, who said:—"We have heard to-night the voice of India, and it is for us to say whether we will turn a deaf ear to that voice or take to heart the message that has been delivered, and determine, in so far as lies in our power, to carry the wishes of our Indian fellow-subjects to a triumphant realisation. * * * We have heard the voice of India to-night, and we shall respond most heartily to its cry. The liberty and justice we claim to enjoy ourselves we will demand shall be accorded to its people." Noble words they are! We only hope that they will find an echo in every constituency in the United Kingdom. Mr. J. R. Wilkinson, in supporting the resolution, remarked that the people of England do not care for India. He said:—"We cannot shrink from the duty of governing India. We are the masters of the Anglo-Indian Government of India. The officials are our servants, and it is our duty to make our servants do their duty. These Anglo-Indian officials look with supreme scorn on a meeting like the present. They regard the Democracy of England with a good deal of contempt. But we are masters of the Indian Government. And when we speak out as clearly as we did in regard to the abominable Cantonment Act, they will have to submit. The Indians cannot do much by themselves, but with the help of the English people they can do every thing." This is perfectly true. Poor helpless India has no voice and cannot make herself heard. As she is unrepresented and dumb, there is no hope of her grievances being redressed, unless the British public be determined to see justice done to her.

THE LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL.

The Board's Report on the land revenue administration of Bengal, for 1887-88 and the report of the Agricultural Department for the same year have been reviewed together by the Local Government in an interesting resolution. The Board's report brings to prominent light the fact that the districts in which temporarily settled estates, Government estates and ryotwari tracts are largest are also those in which the collections are most unsatisfactory. The percentage of collections on the total demand in all temporarily settled estates last year was 89·08, in Government estates it was 76·46, in ryotwari tracts it was 91·41, and in permanently settled estates it was 97·15. In the permanently settled estates the collections in any district did not fall below 90 per cent. on the gross demand. This clearly shows how easily the land revenue demand is realised from permanently settled estates. The percentage of collections from all estates taken together amount-

ed to 94·75, owing to the fact that out of the total land revenue demand of Bengal amounting in round numbers, to 3¾ crores of rupees, no less than 3¼ crores are collected from permanently settled estates. We observe that the balances are heaviest in Government estates, being 22·87 per cent. of the gross demand, and in temporarily settled estates they amounted to 12·86 per cent. We are told that the system of remitting land revenue by postal money-orders which is now in force throughout the Lower Provinces, worked well during the past year; and that the proposal to extend the system to the payment of rent under the Tenancy Act is still under the consideration of Government. We hope very earnestly that the Government will not take any hasty step in the direction of extending the system of money-orders to payment of rent. The results of the experiment which has been introduced in one village of the Howrah district should be very carefully observed before any further action is taken in the matter. We are glad to find that the administration of the sale law during the past year was generally satisfactory. The number of defaults increased, but the number of sales was much the same as in the previous year. Owing to the circular issued by the present Lieutenant-Governor last year the inexorable Sunset Law is now administered with great consideration, so much so that many officers are of opinion that excessive liniency is shown to revenue-payers. But Sir Steuart Bayley rightly holds that it is a wise and considerate policy from which the landholders have gained and the Government has not suffered. The proportion of sales is now only 12 per cent. on the number of defaults, whereas four years ago it was 17 per cent; nevertheless, the percentage of collections has during this period risen from 92·41 to 94·75. The number of certificates filed last year shows only a slight decrease; but it is satisfactory to note that the number of cases in which it was necessary to have actual recourse to sale was reduced by nearly one-half.

The relations between land-lord and tenant, upon the whole appear to have been satisfactory during the past year, although here and there manifestations of ill-feeling were observable. In the Rungpore and Mymensingh districts there were agrarian riots accompanied with loss of life. In the Burdwan district it is reported that an increment of rent assessed thirty years ago was waived by the landlord during some bad seasons and is now a source of dispute. We need hardly say that this dispute has been caused by the introduction of the prescribed form of rent receipt which required the increment to be permanently shown or permanently abandoned. For the same reason there is disturbance in the south of the Midnapore district, where the landlord's claims has always been a fluctuating one on account of floods. The form of rent receipt prescribed under the Tenancy Act takes no account of fluctuating assessments. It did not, indeed, occur to the wise authors that there could ever be such a thing in existence as an assessment varying according to the nature of the season. The landlord in Burdwan who waived his claim to the increment of rent assessed thirty years ago during some bad seasons, would never have shown the slightest consideration of his tenants if he had known that the new form of rent receipt would be introduced. On the working of the Tenancy Act the Board make the following observations:—"The Bengal Tenancy Act has been for too short a time in force to have produced its full effect. There is still a feeling of hesitation on the part of landlords and tenants to have recourse to its provisions. What influence it will eventually have on the condition of the landholding classes it is still too early to say. It is certain, however, that it has not yet provoked any agrarian demonstrations or increased litigation." That the Tenancy Act will in a short time give rise to increased litigation cannot be doubted. The disputes between landlords and tenants in the Burdwan and Midnapore districts will in all likelihood end in litigation, unless indeed, the landlord should waive his legitimate claims. As there is a marked increase in the number of notices of transfer of tenures, the Lieutenant-Governor has requested the Board to obtain the opinion of Revenue officers and of the landholding classes generally, both landlords and tenants, whether sections 12 to 15 of the Tenancy Act should be retained. It is worthy of note that of the 66 applications for survey and settlement of lands under Chapter X of the Act made during the past year, 40 were in respect of the settlement of Government or temporarily settled estates under direct management, 6 related to Wards' estates and 20 to private zemindaries. Sir Steuart Bayley has asked the Board and other Revenue authorities to keep as careful a watch and control over the surveys and records of rights which are being made under Chapter X of the Act in regard to private zemindaries as they are bound to do in the case of Government estates. The Lieutenant-Governor remarks:—"At least one case of the settlement of a private estate has already come to His Honor's notice, in which, owing to want of supervision and attention, a much larger expenditure has apparently been incurred than the circumstances would justify. Delay, too, often involves unnecessary expense, and it is feared that in the operations undertaken in some private estates delay has occurred which might have been avoided. It is known that in Wards' estates the expenditure has been greater than was expected. It was pointed out by the Lieutenant-Governor in the Resolution on last year's report that it was only after those concerned had observed the effects of such operations that any general recourse could be expected to the means afforded by the new law for securing a settlement of all agrarian disputes. But if it is found that the work is not efficiently supervised, and if it is not well and economically managed, and if the strictest care is not taken to prevent abuse, it is certain that the provisions of this chapter of the Act will become a burden instead of a boon to those interested in the land, and the benevolent intentions of the legislature to facilitate by this means the adjustment of disputes between landlords and tenants will be frustrated." As the proceedings under Chapter X of the Tenancy Act are for the most part conducted under the direct supervision of the Director of Land Records, we hope that that officer will carefully bear in mind the sensible observations we have quoted above. We note that in Government estates survey and settlement operations were concluded last year. In one estate—Beel Bullee in the 24-Pergunnahs—the rents which they have reached their maximum, will have increased nearly seven-fold; while in the other—Chur Nalchira in Noakhally—the increase amounted to 26 per cent. Well might the Lieutenant-Governor remark that in the two first cases of settlement which have been concluded under the Tenancy Act, the results have been financially satisfactory, and the work has been efficiently done.

SHALL WE MARCH TO LHASSA?

To this question we give the same short reply which *Punch* gave to a more interesting question —"Don't." We answer in the negative for four reasons. In the first place, the journey to and from Lhassa is difficult, almost impracticable. To conduct an army of 10,000 or 12,000 troops over mountains many thousands of feet high, through narrow passes which may be rendered impervious by the fall of snow, across a rugged, barren and inhospitable region, is a task attended with insuperable difficulties. The country is entirely unknown. The enemy may be lurking on the tops of mountains and hills whence they may roll down huge rocks on the heads of the devoted troops. Provisions for feeding these troops and the camp-followers, who must be more numerous than the troops, require to be carried along with the army; provisions for the forward journey, for the return journey and for the army while it is at Lhassa, must be carried. It is not easy to conceive the difficulties of such an undertaking. It is not a short journey either, being between 300 and 400 miles. Some of our contemporaries may think it to be an easy journey; but to us it appears to be quite impracticable. It is attended with great risk. The whole army may be cut off as in the first Cabul war. Thousands of our gallant troops may be frozen to death, or die of starvation, or their brains may be battered by large pieces of rock hurled from the tops of the mountains. In our opinion it would be rank idiocy to undertake such an impracticable expedition. And what is the object we want to accomplish by embarking on such a perilous expedition? Merely to convince the people of Tibet that we are a very strong people, and that we are able to punish those who offend us. This must be the only object; for the talk about opening up the country for the benefit of trade is idle; for if we once enter Tibet, the Tibetans will in future have nothing to do with us. And this brings us to the second point, which is, that the invasion of Tibet will arouse the indignation not only of the Tibetans but of the whole Buddhist world. Tibet is the Holy Land of the Buddhists. What Jerusalem is to the Jew, Mecca to the Mahammadan, Benares to the Hindu, Lhassa is to the Buddhist. It is the residence of the Grand Lama. The soil of Tibet is sacred and inviolable. The moment European troops put foot in it, the soil is desecrated. The invasion of Tibet will raise a roar of horror and indignation from one extremity of the Chinese Empire to the other; and it is not fanciful to suppose that the feelings of horror and indignation, which will be thus excited, may be so strong as to induce the four hundred millions of Chinese to form a combination against the British power in India, and to pour myriads of its barbarous hordes through the defiles of Tibet into the rich plains below. This is not an impossible supposition, for religious fanaticism, when once roused, can achieve impossibilities. But even if such a Chinese invasion be deemed a wild imagination, there is not the slightest doubt that the invasion of Tibet will create in the breast of every Budhist in the world feelings of the deepest animosity towards every Englishman. In the third place, we must remember that Tibet is a dependency of China. One of our contemporaries has recently tried to make out that that is not the case. The history and the institutions of Tibet show that the Tibetans acknowledge the suzerainty of China. The Emperor of China nominates and appoints the Grand Lama. Chinese officials guide and control the civil affairs and political relations of Tibet. An annual tribute is paid by Tibet to China. If this be not dependency, we know not what that word means. The fact is, Tibet is a dependency of the Chinese Empire, and if we invade Tibet, China will take as mortal offence as we have taken offence at the Tibetans invading Sikkim. One of our contemporaries said the other day that if we invaded Tibet, the Chinese would be only too glad to see the country opened up. This is a mere delusion and a snare. Our Government may depend upon it that the moment British troops reach Tibet, the Emperor of China will remonstrate against it and peremptorily insist on the withdrawal of the army. There may be coolness, to a certain extent, between China and Tibet. China may give a free hand in many things to the Tibetan Government. But whenever a foreign foe invades the country, that coolness will disappear, and China will feel herself bound in honour to employ her immense resources in the support of the power dependant upon her. The jealousy of China has already been awakened by our subjugation of Burmah, and our invasion of Tibet will only add fuel to the flame. China in that case will feel that England, though in Europe quite tame, is in Asia a grasping power, intent upon the subjugation of the whole of the East. And she may at the same time involve us in two wars, one in Tibet and one in Burmah, for her resources are endless, and her population as numerous as the sands on the sea-shore. We should take care that we do not provoke so great an enemy. And that she will be provoked if we invade Tibet, does not admit of the slightest doubt. The fourth reason for which we protest against an invasion of Tibet is, that it will be a costly affair. None of our contemporaries denies that it will be costly. If so, what folly is it to engage in such a costly undertaking at a time when our exchequer is nearly empty? The Government of India has no money for sanitation; it has no money for education; it has no money for any work of improvement or utility; and yet it will engage in a costly, fruitless and senseless expedition. But we are doing injustice to the Government. Government has expressed no such intention. Some of our Jingo contemporaries wish to drive

Government to that extremity. Hence they are saying day after day that an invasion of Tibet is after all not attended with insuperable difficulties; that our honour requires it; and that China will rather like it. All this is mere moonshine. It is the song of the Syren leading to ruin and destruction. We hope and trust that Lord Dufferin will put wax into his ears, and not listen to this syren-song. We trust that at the very close of his administration he will not plunge us into a ruinous war, and leave behind him a legacy of misery and of bankruptcy. But it may be asked, if we are not to invade Tibet, what shall we do? That we must do something is clear. The Tibetans have offended us by their insolence. We must do something to vindicate our honour. Certainly we must vindicate our honour and teach the Tibetans a lesson. Give them a good thrashing on our borders, such a severe thrashing that they will not any more come near us. It is not necessary to pursue them to their homes, and defile their holy sanctuary. We should be content with driving them off after giving them a severe castigation. We do not think it necessary to construct a chain of forts along the border. It is not likely that, after being thrashed severely, they will ever approach us; or if they do approach us in future, we have only to show our faces over the hills, and they will take to their heels.

JAIL ADMINISTRATION IN INDIA.

THE Government of India have recently received the Provincial Reports on the administration of Jails for 1887. It appears that during that year there were, in British India, 741 jails and lock-ups for the reception of prisoners. The number in prison at the commencement of the year and also the number admitted during the year were higher than in 1886; but nevertheless the daily average in jail was smaller. The diminished average, we need hardly say, was chiefly due to the special releases granted on the occasion of Her Majesty's Jubilee. On that occasion no less than 22,918 convicts were given their discharge; and it is satisfactory to find that this act of clemency which appropriately emphasized the celebration of Her Gracious Majesty's Jubilee, did not contribute in any considerable degree to the amount of crime during the year. We are also glad to learn that there was again a slight decline in the number of juvenile offenders admitted into jail, the proportion of such convicts falling from 1·47 to 1·36 per cent. In spite of this general result, however, there was an increase in all the larger provinces except Bombay, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and Burma. The figures under this head clearly show that juvenile prisoners are differently treated in different provinces. The Government of India observe:—"In provinces in which there are reformatories, sentences of imprisonment in them may reasonably be expected to be relatively more numerous; but where there are no reformatories, sentences of imprisonment are to be more sparingly imposed." There can be no doubt as to the soundness of this view; but we do not see any reason why reformatories should not be established in all the provinces. We are told that a reformatory was during the past year opened at Chingleput in the Madras Presidency, and reformatories are about to be established in the Bombay Presidency and the Central Provinces; while in the United Provinces, the Local Government has a scheme for the establishment of a reformatory under consideration.

The total number of convicts employed in manufactures during the past year was slightly less than in 1886, but the ratio of convicts so employed to the whole number of labouring convicts rose from 39·36 to 41·29. The cash earnings, however, fell in 1887 by nearly a lakh and-a-half. The Government of India remark:—"The release at the Jubilee of a large number of convicts who had become skilled in jail manufactures was undoubtedly prejudicial to the financial results of the employment of convicts during the year, but after making allowance for this circumstance, the results of the employment of convicts during the year are in some provinces very unsatisfactory. In Bengal and Burma, however, both the aggregate cash earnings per head showed a very satisfactory advance. The statistics in the Central Provinces are obscured by a debit on account of raw material purchase in 1886, but not paid for till 1887. The revised orders which regulate the employment of convict labour have been in force since May 1886, but the Governor-General in Council notices among some heads of the jail department a disposition to be despondent as to the success of their working. There are doubtless difficulties to be overcome in bringing the industries in Jails into accordance with these rules; but if jail manufactures are to meet the demands of the consuming departments of Government the difficulties now felt will be diminished. The subject is a most important one, and the Governor-General in Council desires to commend it again to the special attention of Local Governments and Administrations." The settlement of the Jail labour question arrived at three years ago was quite satisfactory, and we hope earnestly that the rules there laid down by the Government of India, in modification of Lord Ripon's policy, will be carefully worked by the Local Governments. We are glad to observe that the grand total of offences against jail discipline diminished during the year under review. The number of persons detected in smoking or in possession of forbidden articles showed a slight decrease. The number of offences were highest in Bengal (3,334), where the daily average of convicts was about 11,000, while it was lowest in the United Provinces, where only 698 such offences were recorded among a daily average of convicts amounting to nearly 18,000. These figures speak for themselves and hardly require any comment. Offences relative to work were, as usual, most numerous, though on the whole they declined as compared with the previous year. The Provinces which exhibit a decrease are Bengal, the Punjab, Bombay and Burma. Other offences against prison discipline also fell off, Bengal showing a decline of more than 2,000 in such offences as compared with the previous year. We are told that the question of the more uniform record of offences against jail discipline is again under the consideration of the Government of India. The Supreme Government rightly holds that, for various reasons, it is desirable to aim at greater uniformity in the execution of legal sentences in the various provinces than has yet been attained. Coming to the punishments awarded for these offences, we observe that solitary confinement and reduced diet were inflicted less frequently than in the preceding year. In Bengal there was a marked decrease in both forms of punishment. It appears that in the United Provinces out of a total of 6,185 punishments, no less than 2,142 were cases in which solitary confinement was combined with reduced diet. The Government of India justly remark that sufficient discretion is not always exercised in the use of this form of punishment, which should be confined to cases in which the offence to be punished is a really serious one. There was a substantial decline in the number of corporal punishments inflicted during the year; and we are gratified to learn that this improvement has been secured without any injury to the interests of order and good conduct among the prisoners. We agree with the Government of India that, notwithstanding the marked advance that has been made in this respect, prisoners are still in some cases punished with whippings for comparatively trivial offences. In Bengal the aggregate number of punishments has no doubt considerably decreased; but the ratio of punishments to the daily average in jail is still very large as compared with other provinces. It is worthy of note "that in the Alipore Jail the ratio of punishments to the daily average was 863·23, while the rules over the whole of India, excepting Bengal, was 79·9. This is a matter into which a local enquiry is likely to be instituted; and we think that the enquiry cannot be entrusted to a better man than Dr. William Walker, the acting Surgeon-General to the Government of India. We are strongly of opinion that as Dr. Walker is relieved of his present post by Sir Benjamin Simpson, he should be placed on special duty to enquire into the whole system of recording and punishing jail offences in Bengal. Dr. Walker is unquestionably the ablest and best jail administrator we have now in India.

During the year under review an advance was made in the manner of treating the sick in jails. The most satisfactory feature exhibited by the statistics in this respect is the manifest improvement in the Bombay, Bengal and Assam jails. In Bengal there was a smaller mortality than has ever been reported before, and in Assam the ratio of mortality declined from 54·54 to 28·03 per mille. The Government of India thus conclude their review of the Provincial reports on Jail Administration for 1887:—"The points which on an examination of the statistics of 1887 appear to the Governor-General in Council to generally call for more attention by jail authorities are the allotment of task work in such a manner that a convict may reasonably be expected to perform his allotted task during the day, and thus escape punishment; discrimination in the award of punishments; removal of insanitary conditions in jails predisposing to disease; increased supervision over charges for rations and contingencies; and closer attention to the productive capacities of the jails, particularly with the view of adopting their industries to wants of the consuming departments of Government." We hope these important matters will receive the careful and attentive consideration of the various Provincial Governments.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

LORD and Lady Lansdowne will embark for India in the P. and O. steamer *Ganges* at Brindisi on the 19th of November.

MR. JOHN DILLON has been released from prison owing, it is said, to ill-health. This we take it is a concession to the Parnellites.

THE Crawford Commission will sit on the 7th of October.

IN condemning "lokil stuff" the *Englishman* speaks of "the needy, half-schooled, noisy *nefarious* Babu class." Could any thing be more genteel, elegant or conciliatory?

THE Poona Fine Arts Exhibition was opened on Tuesday by the Governor, and the Duke and the Duchess of Connaught were present. The Exhibition is superior to that of last year's. There are 400 paintings, with a large number of great merit. Lord Reay like Sir Charles Elliot at Simla regretted the paucity of native exhibits.

THE Hunumant Rao case of Bombay has come to an end after dragging a slow and tortuous length. Mr. Crawford was one of the innumerable witnesses examined in the case.

As we have said elsewhere the reports regarding the material condition of the people of India are now being collated at Simla. What a sad state of things will be revealed to the public if the story is properly told! Varnish and veneer may go a great way and yet may not cover all.

A REPORT has been going the round of the press that the age of compulsory retirement for certain classes of officers is to be extended from 55 to 60. We understand that there is no truth in the report.

FROM sanitation the Government of India has gone to domestic economy and taking into consideration certain representations made by the Central Committee of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund and by the Committee of School Inspectors —which assembled in 1886 to revise the European School Code,—is anxious to prescribe a text-book on domestic economy and sanitary science for use in the senior classes of English and Anglo-Vernacular schools. The Governor-General in Council considers that the best means of securing a text-book of the required character is to offer a reward for the preparation of such a work. His Excellency has accordingly decided to offer a reward of Rs. 1,000 for the best text-book on the subject.

THE *Maharam* has passed away not without some stirring incidents. In Calcutta owing to Mr. Lambert's admirable Police arrangements nothing remarkable happened. But in Howrah and some other places affrays took place, affrays not between Hindus and Mahomedans, but between Mahomedans and Mahamedans. The occurrence of these disturbances clearly shows that the more serious affairs of the last three years were not wholly due to the chance of the *Dusserah* and *Maharam* festivals coming together or to any strained feeling between the two communities. The Faithful at this mournful festival of theirs seem to be filled with a desire for fighting with any persons who may chance to come in his way, be they Kaffirs, members of the rival sect of Sunnis, or a rival band of Tazia processionists. In passing we cannot help remarking that the great national festival of our Mahomedan fellow-subjects is yearly losing *eclat* and seems to be sharing the decadance that has overtaken the Dusserah festival of the Hindus. All this painfully points to growing national want and poverty and to the loss of national life, zeal and energy, and as such is to be deeply deplored. "Reformers" may exult that idolatry is losing ground, but the thoughtful will pause, reflect and mourn.

THE irrigation operations in Bengal during the *rabi* season of 1887 shows an improvement upon those of the year previous; 61,653 acres were irrigated as against 49,381 of the previous year showing an increase of 24·8 per cent. The insufficiency of water supply in Midnapore during the season precludes all canal irrigation of the crops. In Hughly, Cuttack and Balasore the area under *rabi* cultivation is comparatively small. The increase in area occurs almost entirely in the Sone Canal districts, and the Sarun Canals also show an improvement. It is to be expected that the deliberations of the late Behar Irrigation Commission will show better results still.

THE imposter is out and sub-judicial acumen has for once been outdone by the genius of swindling. Cheating as a fine art is now-a-days cultivated by the fraternity, and perfection in the art has been lately attained by a scamp who has gone on abusing the hospitality and generosity of quite a number of members of the 'illustrious' service by representing that he is the son of a brother Sub-judge of theirs who is waiting at a roadway station for his mother—poor sainted lady long gone to a better world—or cannot get his evening meal as his family in all its branches and ramifications has locked up all the town houses and in a body gone to Hooghly on an invitation! One gentleman was so completely imposed upon that after being unwilling further to lavish money and the good things of the world on the dissolute adventurer, he addressed a serious remonstrance to his supposed father and advised him to take care of his young hopeful. The scene of operations has recently been transferred from the eastern districts to Calcutta itself, but we trust that this warning will check the pretender's careers.

THE Rangoon Contempt case has terminated in disbarring Mr. Moylan, and the Additional Recorder in his judgment has ferreted out certain non-professional acts of Mr. Moylan which led to his being similarly punished in Granada. Mr. Moylan's explanations and apologies were held insufficient and insincere. Much sympathy is naturally felt for him, and at Rangoon, the feeling is that a small incident which a strong Judge would have settled in five minutes at the time of its occurrence has been the means of working Mr. Moylan out of the province "where he has been a thorn in the side of the authorities." We are sure Mr. MacEwan could not have lent himself to any such thing and must have done what he deemed was required from a Judge.

EVERY borrower has a right to borrow in the cheapest market he can get and no one has any business to intermeddle with him. His Highness the Maharaja of Bettiah may have been well advised by his manager Mr. Gibbon to refuse to be tyrannized over by local *mahajans*, and to start a loan in the London market by which he hopes to pay off the whole of the debts of his estate and which in its turn is to be paid off in thirty-seven years or earlier, if possible. The outside world has no right to object to these ideas and schemes and does not care to do so. When the Government is well aware of the conditions under which the loan has been floating in London, we may feel sure that every case has been taken to guard it against such frauds as were unearthed in the Hydrabad case.

NOT only we do not object to the recognition of the merits and abilities of deserving Mahomedan public servants, but take every possible opportunity of pressing their claims to the attention of Government. What we cannot tolerate is favouritism in time and out of time. It injures public service and injures those that are thoughtlessly favored. A good opportunity of rewarding the merits of an able Mahomedan officer is now afforded by Mr. Marsden, the Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta, going on leave; and we hope the Government will avail itself of it by appointing the Hon'ble Syed Amir Hossein to officiate for him. As a Presidency Magistrate the Hon'ble Syed has made himself so universally popular by uniform urbanity of temper, by the administration of impartial and even-handed justice and, above all, by the display of considerale judicial acumen that a fitter incumbent for the post it would be hard to find. The Supreme Government has marked its sense of confidenee in him and the appreciation of his abilities by re-appointing him as a member of the Legislative Council, and he equally commands the respect and approbation of Hindus, Mahomedans and Europeans. The appointment would not be without precedent as Mr. Amir Ali was on one occasion similarly appointed to officiate as the Chief Magistrate, and we trust no objection will be raised on the score of the Hon'ble Syed's not being a Barrister-at-Law.

THE authorities might very materially enhance the popularity of the postal Savings Banks in Calcutta by allowing business to be done in the morning and the evening, as well as during the day. People who have a few rupees to lay by are all working men and have to attend to their work between 10 A. M. and 4 P. M.; but according to present arrangements those are exactly the hours that the Savings Bank men will consent to receive deposits or allow money to be drawn. Business people cannot afford to come to the Savings Banks absenting themselves from work and thus lose all means of saving. We would earnestly press upon the authorities the importance of this little reform and hope they will extend the hours of business and give greater facilities for drawing and depositing money.

THE National Chamber of Commerce in its Memorial to the Railway Conference rightly attaches great importance to goods traffic, as representing the trade and commerce of the city. The Chamber points out that a railway depends for its success chiefly upon goods traffic, and that it should, therefore, be the primary duty of the Simla Conference to see how the goods traffic can be more fully developed. The principal causes that retard its growth are the low rates charged by the country-boats for the transmission of goods, the great wastage during transmission by rail, and the rough way in which goods are handled by railway coolies. The Chamber thinks that the last two grievances may be easily redressed. At present it does not seem to be the special duty of anyone to take proper care of goods while in the custody of the railway authorities. The Chamber also urges the desirability of reducing the rates upon certain classes of goods especially wheat, jute and rice. It also requests that the Legislature should secure to railway receipts the same privileges that are enjoyed by bills of lading.

DURING the Poojah the Customs House clerks will be required to be in attendance for one hour daily for the purpose of entering and clearing vessels and granting export and import passes on *free* goods, provided that the merchants or agents concerned have given notice of their requirements to the Assistant Collector on the day previous. These facilities are in addition to the four days on which, as usual, the Customs House will be kept open during the full regulation hours. If business actually requires the arrangement let it be made by all means. But Christian and Mahomedan clerks of the office may easily be detailed for the duty, and if Hindu clerks are deprived of well-earned holidays during the greatest of their national festivities, they will, we hope, be allowed extra remuneration.

IT is impossible to estimate the amount of injury done and likely to be done by the recent heavy floods. The downpour continues and distress is prevailing in all parts of the Delta. Official reports speak of the suffering of the people in measured terms; but this is hardly the time for mincing matters. Effective and vigorous relief measures ought to be set on foot without the least loss of time and before famine and disease have made their appearance. The *Englishman* which has always done a yeoman's service to the people of Bengal suffering from the effects of inundations, speaks on the subject as follows:—

'Although the official reports of the floods in Bengal indicate a deplorable state of things, it is to be feared that the worst has not yet been stated. The official reports are supplied principally by sub-divisional officers who have only been out on inspection for a few days, but we are able to supplement the information given in the "Gazette" from the observation of Settlement Officers and others on the spot. We learn that Nuddea, Birbhum, Hughli and Burdwan have all suffered from floods, the embankments of the Matabhunga or Bhaggirutti, Dwarka, Damuda and Ajoy being breached. The inundation in the sub-division of Contai in Midnapur has been caused by the accumulation of rain water, which in the thanas of Potaspur and through the Bagda or Kalinuggur river, while the floods stood high in the marshes of Burrochowka, which had hitherto been drained by the Chowmookhi Khall. Of the five thanas in Tamluk, two, Panslora and Nundigram, will not give more than a four-anna crop. Half of Mohesadal and Sattahatta is still under water. The last-named thana comprises Docea, a pargana of 98,000 biggas, where almost every Pundit of old family in the Lower Provinces has his seat, and a piece of land from which he draws his patrimony. Here the drainage khalls have been silted badly up, and the lock-gates are of such small dimensions that they do not serve their purposes at all adequately. In Sobang, in the Sadar subdivision of Midnapur, some persons are still said to be living in powkas or canoes, and encamped on the embankments. A gentleman while journeying the other day from Bhabka Ghat to Mohan saw nothing but an inland sea extending as far as the eye could reach. He also came across large alligators in the paddy fields of Western Mundle Ghat, in the thana of Panslowa. There can be little doubt that the outlook is far from satisfactory.'

WE hear that the owners of the steam ferry, the *Ostrich*, which was lately sunk in a collision in the Hughly, intend bringing a suit for damages against the Port Commissioners for the recovery of the value of the steamer. The move would not, we fancy, be amiss, for where a large amount of money is at stake the enquiry is likely to be full and satisfactory.

WE are glad to notice that at their meeting held on Wednesday last, the British Indian Association elected Rao Saheb Vishvanath Mandalik and Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji as Honorary Members of the Association. When the Association was first formed, the plan of having Honorary Members engaged the attention of the founders and a rule was framed authorising their election. But that rule has hitherto not been acted upon. It was felt that an Association like this in its infancy could render no honor to any body by electing an Honorary member, while the glory of having great names on the Honorary list would not be in keeping with its first inefficient efforts. Subsequently the matter came to be altogether overlooked. Steady and arduous work for well nigh half a century has placed the Association however, in a different position now. Now can they appeal, indeed, to a great many things that they have done, and it is certain that the Association will benefit by having fellow-workers in other Presidencies, who will materially assist them in attaining success. At the same time it is but proper that they should recognise the services of their fellow-labourers in the only way that is possible for them, *i. e.*, by doing them honor with every feeling of cordiality. Actuated by this feeling, the President

laid before the Association, on the day of their last half-yearly meeting, for recognition the names of the above-mentioned two gentlemen who have rendered themselves worthy of the highest consideration of the people of India. Their names are familiar to us as well as their works. For four decades or more Mr. Mandalik has been before the Indian public, and has been foremost in every battle for the good of his country. A distinguished man of letters, a thorough lawyer, and a devoted journalist, he has in a manner consecrated his life to the service of his country. He has been twice or thrice elected a member of the Legislative Council of Bombay, and held a seat recently in the Legislative Council of the Empire, and in every capacity he worthily maintained his character as a true and unflinching patriot. Mr. Naoroji's services are equally distinguished. He, too, was a member of the Bombay Council for several years, and a devoted labourer in the field of Indian reform. He is now in England and a candidate for a seat in the House of Commons for which he has been nominated by the Finsbury Liberal Committee. We are sure that every one will wish him success in his candidature. As a political institution, the British Indian Association cannot but feel deeply the value of the services of these two gentlemen. In the whole range of India the Association could not have two better men for their Honorary members. The Committee should now name some gentlemen of the Southern Presidency and of the North-West, for the distinction of honorary membership.

WE are informed by respectable Zemindars in the interior of the Districts of Howrah and Hoogly that the paddy lands which are now under water may be utilised for sowing *Boro*. The irrigation authorities should help the ryots in sowing *Boro* paddy and permit them to use the water of the river *Kana Damoodar* free of charge for cultivation. If this be allowed, the ryots would not suffer much on account of the loss of the *Hemanta* crops. We would respectfully urge His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to direct the District authorities to adopt measures for facilititing the sowing of *Boro* in this way. The progress of a wide-spread famine will thereby be stopped and distress alleviated to a considerable extent. The villages of Rampoor, Romanath batty, Ghotompore, BadoBelay, Ichapoor, Bur-Belay, Neejbellay Tripoorapore, Kajeerat, Pakpara, Ghosalbatty Moulgachee, Emadpore, Shuntosba ty, Churng Ghoorool, Maroghur, Neemay Belay, Komurpur, Rungmohol, Shealdinghee, Machal, Joteshovaram, Govindpore, Batan &c. on the right bank of the Kana Damoodur and Naicooly Shekrabatty, Ghunessambatty, Bamoonparrah, Jadubbatty, Ootur Majoo, Modho Majoo, Haranundbatty, Dukhin Majoo, Gouripoor Deepay, Kag Gachee, Par Goostay, Pol Goostay, Mullickpore, &c. on the left bank of the river within the jurisdiction of thanas Juggutbullubpur and Ampta, would be materially benefited by the measure. We feel sure that the suggestion we have offered will have the careful consideration of the district authorities. A Canal cess may be justifiable where actual productive public works have been undertaken. But it cannot with any show of reason be levied in respect of a natural stream like the *Kana* which has never been cleared of silt or embanked for the benefit of the ryots. We are told the Divisional Commissioner has always opposed this unjust cess and we trust he will persuade Government to grant remissions in years of scarcity and distress like this.

THERE is no truth in the report which reached Tashkend of the sudden death of the Amir of Afghanistan.

AT the meeting of the Legislative Council, held on Thursday last, the Hon'ble Mr. Scoble moved for leave to introduce a Bill to supplement certain provisions of the Calcutta and Bombay Municipal Acts. The following is a telegraphic summary of Mr. Scoble's speech:

"He said that, as might have been expected, these Acts had given rise to considerable diversity of opinion among the communities most directly affected by them; but that with these matters of controversy the present Bill had no concern. The questions raised were within the competence of the local Legislatures to determine, and the Government of India had no reason to doubt that they had exercised the discretion which they admittedly possessed wisely and with due regard to local interests and requirements. But in both these Municipal Acts it was proposed to confer jurisdiction in certain municipal matters, such as claims to vote, objections to valuations, compensation for damages and the like, upon appellate benches of the Municipal authorities, on Presidency and other Magistrates and on Small Cause Courts, and to make the decisions of these tribunals final in certain classes of cases. It was obviously desirable that there should be some cheap and summary way of disposing of such cases; but the local Councils had no power to pass laws which affected the jurisdication of the High Court or amend Acts passed by this Council. Both the Bombay and Calcutta Municipal Acts appeared to be open to objection on these grounds, and the object of the present Bill was to cure this defect by enacting that the provisions of these Municipal Acts shall, so far as they confer jurisdiction in municipal matters on the tribunals mentioned, be as valid as if they had been passed by this Council.

THE following significant paragraph regarding the proposed Kabul Mission is from the *Pioneer*. It will be seen that our misgivings on this subject were not unfounded:—

"AT the eleventh hour a decided change has taken place in the prospect of the Kabul Mission, the despatch of which, at any rate for the present, must be considered very doubtful. Up to 48 hours ago every communication from the Amir expressed characteristic confidence in his ability to deal promptly and successfully with the one obstacle to his immediate guarantee of its perfect safety. But to whatever cause precisely the sudden change which has taken place in our ally's tone may be due, it is certain, that he is no longer so confident. Whether Ishak Khan has been found a harder nut to crack than the Amir at first believed; whether the attitude of his own force is not absolutely dependable in the emergency, or whether new and unseen influences have begun to work to cause a change in Abdur Rahman's view of the position—only Abdur Rahman knows. With reference to the silly story of his death, it may be stated that the Amir was alive and well five days ago, as our envoy, Ata-ullah Khan, and Mr. Griesbach now in Kabul, have testified.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN DISEASES OF THE THROAT.—Sir G. Duncan Gibb, Bart., M. D., LL D. Physician and Lecturer on Forensic Medicine, Westminster Hospital, author of various works on Diseases of the Throat and Larynx, writes:—"The experience of many years has abundantly proved the truth of every word said in favour of Dr. de Jongh's Light Brown Cod Liver Oil by many of our first Physicians and Chemists, thus stamping him as a high authority and an able Chemist whose investigations have remained unquestioned. Its value, therefore, as a therapeutic agent in number of diseases chiefly of an exhaustive character, has been admitted by the world of medicine; but, in addition, I have found it a remedy of great power in the treatment of many Affections of the Throat and Larynx, especially in Consumption where it will sustain life when everything else fails. Dr. de Jongh's Light Brown Cod Liver Oil has an agreeable flavour, is very palatable, and liked by children; hence its value in the third stage of Hooping Cough, when it acts as a restorative and tonic." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts, with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper. by all chemists druggists and storekeepers. Sole consignees, Ansar,, Harford and Co., 210, High Holborn, London.

TO THE DEAF.

A person cured of Deafness and Noises in the head of 23 years' standing by a Simple Remedy, will send a description of it free to any person who applies to J, H. Nicholson, 5 Old Court House Street, Calcutta.

Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette,—*September* 19, 1888.

GENERAL.—Mr. K. G. Gupta, Officiating Junior Secretatry to the Board of Revenue, is appointed to act as Secretary to the Board of Revenue, in addition to his own duties, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. C. E. Buckland, or until further orders.

Babu Kally Sunker Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Tipperah, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 in that District.

Mr. A. Mc Gavin, Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Julpigori, is allowed leave for thirty-six days, under section 138-2 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 18th instant.

Mr. J. Kelleher, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Hughly, is allowed leave for sixteen days, under the note to rule 2, section 73 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 5th October 1888.

Mr. Baroda Churn Mitter, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Mymensingh, on leave, is appointed to have chrge of the Jamalpore Sub-Division of that district.

Mr. R. H. S. Hutchinson Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Poltce, Mymensingh, is transferred to Dacca.

Eduction.—Mr. S. Robson, Temporary Professor in the Patna College, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. M. G. Dus, Prothero, Professor, Patna College, on leave, is appointed to be a Professor in the Hughly College.

Sanitation.—Surgeon L. A. Waddell, Officiationg Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Darjiling Circle, is confirmed in that appointment.

Medical.—Assistant Surgeon Behary Lal Pal is appointed temporarily to have medical charge of the civil station of Jessore, in addition to his own duties, with effect from the afternoon of the 1st instant.

The following notifications are republished from the Assam Gazette:—

In consequence of the departure, on privilege leave, on the 9th August 1888, of Mr. G. E. McLeod Officiating Deputy Commissioner, third grade, Captain M. A. Gray, Officiating Deputy Commissioner fourth grade, is appointed to Officiate as Deputy Commissioner, third grade, and Mr. E. A. Gait, Officiating Assistant Commissioner, second grade, to officiate as Deputy Commissioner fourth grade.

Mr. H. Lemesurier, C, S., Assistant Commissioner, is invested with the powers conferred upon a Magistrate of Police by Act XIII of 1859 (an Act to provide for the Punishment of breaches of contracts by artificers, workmen, and laborers in certain cases.

The Chief Commissioner is pleased to appoint Mr. H. Lemesurier, C. S., Assistant Commissioner, to perform the functions of a Magistrate under Act 1 of 1882 (the Inland Emigration Act).

Mr. P. C. Lyon, C. S., Assistant Commissioner, reported his departure from India, on special leave, on the 15th August 1888.

Mr. H. Luttman-Johnson, C. S., Judge and Commissioner Assam Valley Districts, reported his departure from India, on furlough on the 31st July 1888.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT. Babu Hara Gobind Mukerji, First Munsiff of Perozepore, in the District of Backergunge, now on deputation as additional Subordinate Judge of Manbnum, is appointed to be an extra Munsiff in Chota Nagpore, to be ordinarily stationed at Manbhum for three months; and is vested with powers under clause 6, section 3 of the Land Acquistion Act X of 1870 to perform the function of a Judge under that Act for the disposal of cases under section 38 of the Act at present pending in Manbhum.

Babu Pran Chunder Pakrassy, an Honorary Magistrate attached to the Serajgunge bench, in the District of Pubna, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P
Hon'ble Gudanarain Guzpati Rao, Bombay	13	4	0
H. H. Moharaja of Hatwa	13	4	0
The Ahmednagore City Library	13	4	0
Bombay Royal Branch Asiatic Society	13	4	0
J. H. Nicholson Esq., Calcutta	5	0	0
The Lucknow Institute	6	10	0
The Ratnaghiry Library	1	11	0
The Albert Edward Institute, Poona	13	4	0
The District Engineer, Jhansie	3	0	0
Revd. Lal Behary Dey, Chinsurah	9	0	0
Commillah Public Library	6	10	0
The Magistrate of Pooree	9	0	0
Baboo Banko Behary Pal, Kaithpara	6	8	0
" Bulloram Das, Itally	6	10	0
" Jogendra Nath Chatterjee, Marwal	9	15	0
" Nobin Chunder Surmah, Sylhet	13	4	0
" Jogendra Nath Mookerjee, Doomka	6	10	0
" Gyan Chunder Roy, Bundelcand	13	4	0
" Kaly Kumar Sanyal, Marwara	5	0	0
" Bharut Chunder Bose, Dacca	10	0	0
" Poorno Chunder Das, Chittagong	6	10	0
" Gopal Chunder Sen, Burdwan	10	0	0
" Gopee Mohan Sen, Cattuck	6	10	0
" Mohim Chunder Roy, Natore	15	0	0
" Kadar Nath Bannerjee, Mohendro P. O.	10	0	0
" Kaly Nath Bannerjee, Burdwan	13	0	0
" Sitanath Bannerjee, Cooch-Behar	10	0	0
" Wooma Churn Kor, Chittagong	15	0	0
" Obhoy Churn Sen, Palamow	5	10	0
" Bunko Behary Baksi, Pakour	6	10	0
" Kally Narain Ghose, Bagoosarai	6	10	0
" Khandonlal, Shahispore	13	4	0
" Dwarkanath Chuckerbutty, Bally	6	10	0
" Kalydas Dev, Kakina Rungpore	6	0	0
" Surnokomul Chuckerbuti, Munshigunge, Dacca	2	0	0

Advertisements.

TO LET

At the celebrated place of pilgrimage and health resort, Deoghur, Baidyanath.

ARCADIA, a commodious bungalow provided with out-offices, coach-houses and stabling. Having a salled compound attached it is especially adapted for the convenience of Hindu ladies. For particulars enquire of Kumar R. Mittra, No. 8, Maniktollah Road, Calcutta.

HOWRAH DOCKING COMPANY LIMITED

The Half-yearly Ordinary General Meeting of the shareholders of this Company will be held at its Registered Office No. 5 Bentinck Street, on Tuesday the 25th instant at 3 P. M. to receive the Report of the Directors, to pass the Accounts for the half-year ended 30th June 1888, and to declare a dividend.

The Transter Register will remain closed from the 18th to the 25th instant, both days inclusive.

M RUSTOMJEE
Managing Director

CALCUTTA,
17*th September* 1888.

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

Sealed tenders for supply of 60,000 running feet traight Kerb and Channel Stones and 1,000 running feet Kerb Stones and 1,000 running feet Channel stones of 8 feet radius, will be received by the Vice-Chairman, and will be opened by him in the presence of tenderers who may wish to attend at 2 P. M. on the 4th October, 1888.

2. The stones are to be dressed Mirzapore slabs of the best quality, 12 inches wide, 4 inches thick, and each piece not less than 3 feet in length, to be delivered and stocked at the Municipal Depots at Bagbazaar and Nimtollah, in the following quantities:—

One-third by the 31st De cember 1888;

And two thirds by the 31st October 1889.

3 Earnest-money, Rs, 2,000, to be enclosed with each tender.

4. The successful Tenderer must sign a deed of contract, duly stamped and registered at his own expense.

5. The commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.

6. Any further information required can be had on application.

UDOY NARAIN SINGHA,
Superintendent of Stores.

September 14, 1888.

THE TARKESSAR RAILWAY Co. Ld.,

NOTICE.

The Ninth General Meeting of Shareholders will be held at the Registered Office of the Company, No. 38, Strand, Calcutta, on Monday the 1st October 1888, at 3 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of receiving and passing the Audited Accounts and Balance Sheet for the Half-year ending 30th June 1888, declaring a dividend and transacting any other business that may be brought forward.

The Transfer Register will be closed from the 24th September to the 1st October, both days inclusive.

HOARE MILLER & Co.,
Managing Agents

CALCUTTA:
22*nd September* 1888.

CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY

NOTICE

The Senate will proceed in the month of March 1889, to the election of a Tagore Professor of Law for the term of one year to commence on the 1st of September, 1889,

The salary of the professorship is Rs. 10,000 per annum, and the Professor will be expected to deliver a course of not less than twelve lectures upon *one* of the following subjects :—

(1) The Law relating to Damages.

(2) The Mahomedan Law relating to Marriage, Dower, Divorce, Legitimacy and Guardianship of Minors according to the Sunnis.

(3) The Mahomedan Law relating to Marriage, Dower, Divorce, Legitimacy and Guardianship of Minors according to the Shiahs.

(4) The Law of Endowments, Both Hindu and Mahomedan.

(5) The Law of Agency in British India.

Candidates for the Professorship are reqnested to forward their application to the Registrar on or before the 1st of January, 1889, and at the same time to state on which of the abovementioned five subjects they are prepared to lecture.

P. K. RAY, D. SC,
Registrar.

SENATE HOUSE,
The 30th August 188.

NOTIFICATION.

The following Notification is issued as to the conditions under which correspondence and parcels may be sent between India and the Hazara Field Force.

FROM INDIA TO THE FIELD.

Mode of addressing correspondence.

Corresponbedce posted in India for delivery in the field should be addressed as follows :—

A. B.
Regiment, Battery or Office,
Hazara Field Force.

No post town should be added to the address, and special care should be taken to insert the Regiment or Battery with which the addressee is serving, or the special appointment which he may hold with the force.

What may be sent.

Unregistered letters, post-cards, newspapers, book-packets and parcels (private and service) may be posted in India for delivery in the field. Full prepayment of postage is compulsory. Delivery will be made through orderlies.

Parcels.

Parcels will be delivered through the Transport Department. The Post Office will forward parcels from India to the Base offices at Oghi and Derband, and its responsibility will cease there.

No Registration Insurance or Money-orders.

Letters cannot be registered, nor can letters er parcels be insured, for despatch from India to the field. Money-orders will not be issued in favour of payees in the field.

Redirection to Field Force of foreign correspondence and Parcels.

On this occasion all correspondence, including packets ane newspapers, and also parcels received from the *United Kingdom and Places abroad,* for officers and troops with the expedition will be specially intercepted in the Railway Mail Service, and redirected to the " Hazara Field Force. " Should any one desire that such correspondence or parcels should be allowed to go on to the address which they may bear, he should give written instructions to this effect to the Postmaster of the post town to which they will be addressed.

FORM THE FIELD TO INDIA

What may be sent.

Unregistered letters, post-cards and book-packets may be posted to addressees in India. Prepayment of postage is optional. No registered or insured letters or ordinary or insured parcels will be accepted for despatch.

Money-orders

Money-orders will be issued on India at inland rates of commission. Remittances by telegraphic money-orders can also be sent on the ordinary conditions.

FROM ONE FIELD POST OFFIE TO ANOTHER.

What may be sent.

Only unregistered letters, post-cards, newspapers and book-packets may be posted at one Field Post Office for delivery from another Field Post Office. Eull prepayment of postage is compulsory.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

From India to the Field must be fully prepaid. Service parcels can be sent.

From the Field to India need not be stamped. Postage at the prepaid rate will be charged on delivery in India. Service parcels cannot be sent.

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১। কোম্পানীর এই মোকামের ফারামে সর্ব্ব প্রকার স্বর্ণ রৌপ্যের অলঙ্কার ও চাঁদার বাসন, মুক্তার মালা প্রভৃতি সর্ব্বদ প্রস্তুত থাকে। ডাকমাশুল /০ আনা পাইলে ক্যাটালগ পাঠান যায়।

২। অলঙ্কার ক্রয়ের বা নির্দ্দিষ্ট ডাকঘরে পার্শ্বেল পৌঁছার ইনটিমেসন প্রাপ্তির ৭ দিন মধ্যে যদি ক্রেতা অলঙ্কারে ক্ষুৎ বা মলা যুক্ত না করিয়া ফেরত দেন, কোম্পানি তাহা ফেরত লইবেন এবং সম্পূর্ণ মূল্য ফেরত দিবেন।

তালিক। হীরকাঙ্গুরী।

প্রথম জলের ও পুরাতন খনির ১২৫—৪৫ টাকা

পোখরাজের অঙ্গুরী।

(প্রায় হীরার ন্যায় উজ্জল) ২০—১৬ „

বিনাপাইনের শীল অঙ্গুরী ১৬—১০ „

কন্যা-বিবাহের আভরণ।

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ডায়মল কাটা ডবল চিক ১।০, ১॥, ১ তোলা

ঝাড় ইয়ারিং ১।০, ১৵০

দায়মল কাট বাজু ১॥ তোলা

দুর্গাপূজা কান।

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এত দিনে ৬.৭ তোলা ওজনে যে স্বর্ণ কান প্রস্তুত হইত তাহা হইতে অনেক সুশ্রী ও পরিষ্কার গঠন কান ন্যূনাধিক ৪ তোলা ওজনে তৈয়ারি আছে। বহু চিন্তার পর, দুর্গাপ্রতিমারচালির অনুকরণে, শ্রীকৃষ্ণবাবু এই নমুনা বাহির করিয়াছেন। কান আপাদমস্তক গণ্ডদেশ শোভা করিবে। পছন্দ না হইলে টাকা ফেরত দিব। ডাকখরচ কোম্পানি লোকসান দিবেন।

ডায়মন কাটা গজ-যমুনা মল।

মূল্য প্রতি জোড়া ৩০—৬০ টাকা

ইহা এত সুন্দর যে যেখানে রাখা যায় সেই স্থানই যেন উজ্জ্বল হয়।

প্যানাপাত চুড়ী।

এ দেশে যত প্রকার চুড়ীর চলন সর্ব্বাপেক্ষা উৎকৃষ্ট নমুনা। ওসার এক ক্রল, মূল্য

তারে ১৫০ ১৭৫ টাকা

পাতে ৬০ ৮০ „

তারের তিন থাক বাজু ও অশ্বত্থ পত্র চিক।

মূল্য প্রত্যেক ১৫০—২০০

স্বর্ণকারের শিল্পনৈপুণ্যের শীর্ষস্থল। পরীক্ষাস্থলে কেহ লইয়া যদি না পছন্দ করেন, ডাকখরচ কোম্পানী লোকসান দিবেন।

নিম্নলিখিত বা ক্রগণ ও শত শত লোক অনেকগুলি অলঙ্কার লইয়া বিশেষ সন্তোষসূচক পত্র লিখিয়াছেন—

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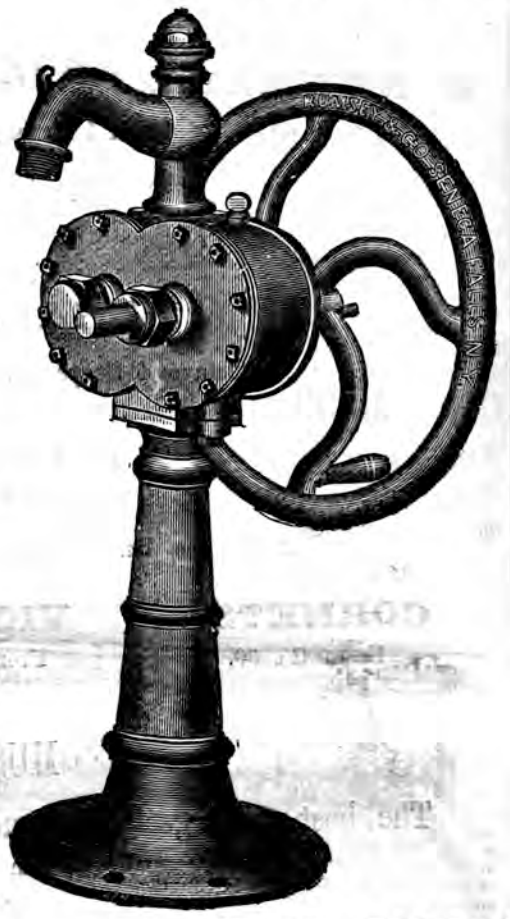

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THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION CALCUTTA.

A Half-yearly General Meeting of the British Indian Association was held at the Association Rooms, on Wednesday, the 19th September, at 4 p. m.

There were present:

Raja Durga Churn Law, C. I. E., in the chair, Maharaja Sir Norendra KrishnaBahadur, K.C.I.E. Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee, C. S. I., Kumar Debendro Mullick Bahadoor, H. M. Rustomjee, Esq., Babu Kissorylal Gossain, Babu Devaprasad Sarvadhikari, Babu Benode Behary Mullick, Babu Chundilal Singh, Babu Jogendra Chunder Ghose, Babu Brajendra Kumar Roy Chowdry, Babu Issur Chunder Mitter, Babu Nondolal Gossain and Babu Charu Chunder Mullick.

The Secretary read the following report of the Committee of management.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Committee beg to submit the following report of the operations for the half-year ending 30th June 1888.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

On the 15th of April, 1887, your Committee received a copy of the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Municipal affairs of the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta, and were invited to express their opinion regarding the provisions of the Bill. On the 13th of January last, your Committee submitted their remarks. Regarding the proposed amalgamation of Calcutta with the Suburbs they regretted that they were not furnished with any statement from Government showing the grounds on which the amalgamation proposed was held necessary, but they could state with confidence that no regular enquiry was officially instituted before the orders on the subject were passed. The Committee appointed to report on the question were distinctly informed that Government had "accepted the principle of amalgamation and they were to report on the details and to lay down the lines on which the necessary legislation to give effect to the amalgamation should proceed." The Committee did not, therefore, enquire into the necessity of the measure, nor did they express any definite opinion as to its utility. Your Committee urged that the scheme contemplated the addition to the Town of twice its present area and a population of about 1,83,000. The area to be added being noted for its grossly defective sanitary condition and on account of being too sparsely populated would not be able to yield by way of taxes anything like the sum necessary for its reform and organization. The Town would consequently be saddled with a heavy responsibility for which it was totally unequal. Complaint was frequently made that the Town had not the means to do all that was necessary for its sanitary requirements, and the evil now complained of would be aggravated if any unhealthy area twice the present size of the Town of Calcutta be added to it. The Amalgamation Committee had in their report distinctly and unreservedly stated that "the new obligations which this scheme would impose upon the Municipality must be met, if they are to be adequately fulfilled, by new sources of income." As the Bill did not provide for such "new sources" the future condition of the Town must be worse than what it is now. To the bulk of the Suburban people numerous rates and taxes levied in the Town would be extremely oppressive. The proposed amalgamation, Your Committee submitted, did not appear desirable either in the interests of the residents of the Town or of the Suburbs and a thorough enquiry by experts was desirable before the measure was finally accepted.

The modifications proposed to alter the constitution of the Corporation are of serious import to the native inhabitants of the Town. For more than 100 years the Municipal affairs were managed directly by Government. In 1863 an attempt was made to hand them over to the management of the residents of the Town and a Board of Justices was instituted, acting, to a certain extent, under the control of Government, and as the plan proved satisfactory, in 1874, a corporate body was formed and the rate-payers were empowered to elect two-thirds of the members of the Corporation. The working of this system was very successful and the Government, as the Annual Reports show, has had no reason to be dissatisfied with it. The Government, as it appears, does not even now desire to alter the fundamental principles of that institution, but it now wishes, as the alterations proposed show, to set aside the legitimate rights of the rate-payers generally, with a view to favor a particular section of the community.

Your Committee further observed that the principle which regulates the election of representatives in civilized countries has been entirely overlooked in the allotment of Commissioners for the different Wards—that principle being the regulation of the number of representatives according to population. Neither wealth, importance, social influence, nor nationality of the inhabitants is anywhere taken into consideration in selecting such representatives. When Municipalities were first constituted in Europe, the prince who owned one-half of the area of a town was not allowed any advantage in the matter of franchise over the manual labourer who owned no land, but claimed his right to vote on the ground of his being a taxpayer. Any deviation from this principle would prove injurious. To transfer all real power to a favored few and reduce the rest to nullity is unfortunately the principle of the present Bill, as the number of representatives has apparently been regulated with reference, mainly if not entirely, to the nationality, wealth and influence of the inhabitants.

The plan proposed to delegate two-fifths of the power of nomination to private bodies is open to serious objection. The public bodies favored in the Bill are the Port Commission, the Chamber of Commerce and the Trades Association. These bodies have officially no interest whatever in the Municipal affairs of the Town and are totally unconnected therewith. They are merely associations of private individuals who have joined for the protection of their private business, the Municipal management not being a part thereof. Besides as individuals, they have their votes; it is not reasonable or fair that they should be invested with privileges which are withheld from others, European or native, of similar character. Your Committee pointed out that the distinction made between native associations and some European associations on the one hand and the favored bodies on the other is opposed to the liberal and even-handed policy of Government. This impropriety apart the result would affect native interests seriously.

The Committee also strongly objected to the proposed building regulations, and to the provisions regarding Bustees, a five per cent valuation on the cost of dwelling houses for purposes of assessment, breaking up of joint-families and forcible removal to Hospital.

The Bill has passed through the Bengal Council, and now awaits the assent of His Excellency the Viceroy to become the law of the land.

ABOLITION OF THE CALCUTTA MINT.

Your Committee, on the 4th of January last, submitted for the consideration of His Excellency the Viceroy in Council, a representation regarding the proposal for abolishing the Calcutta Mint and confining the coining operations of Government to the Bombay Mint. They represented that they believed that the above proposal had been made with a view to effect a substantial reduction of public expenditure. The Bombay Mint had been ascertained to be in a position to coin at least 4¼ crores of Rupees every month which would probably be sufficient to meet the whole demand for Rupee coinage; but your Committee were of opinion that although the Bombay Mint would be quite capable of doing the whole of the Rupee coinage both in Calcutta and Bombay, the anticipated economy by abolishing the Calcutta Mint would be more nominal than real. The value of the land and buildings now in the occupation of the Calcutta Mint would all be depreciated and the loss in the capital in consequence thereof would amount to 50 lacs or more. To incur such a heavy loss for the sake of effecting a reduction in expenditure, to the extent of nearly 3 lakhs or so would, the Committee submitted, be a matter of questionable expediency. A large saving might be effected by reducing the present establishment and limiting the working cost to such an extent as would be absolutely required for its reduced working. Again, if the Mint were abolished great injury would be done to the interests of the trading and commercial communities of this country. The merchants would have to pay the freight to Bombay of the bullion sent there for mintage and also of the coin received here in return. If the Government agree to pay all these transit charges they would have to incur a large expenditure which would greatly reduce the expected saving.

Your Committee also expressed a doubt as to whether the Bombay Mint would be capable of undertaking the *copper* coinage of the whole country and Burma together with that for the Governments of Ceylon and the Straits Settlements. If an establishment were kept in Calcutta for the copper coinage only then the proposed saving in the cost of establishment by abolishing the silver mintage would be very inconsiderable. Again, if the Bombay Mint undertook the copper coinage also then the transit charges which the Government would have to pay, would swallow a considerable portion of the expected saving. The heavy risk of frequent movements of precious metals, either by sea or land, should also be taken into consideration in this connection.

The increasing export trade of the country also requires a constant supply of silver and copper coins It would not, therefore, be prudent to depend on one Mint alone for the entire supply of our coins. There are times also when the pressure for silver and copper coinage becomes very great. An incalculable injury would be done to commerce, if on such occasions the supply of coins would prove inadequate. The abolition of the Calcutta Mint was also believed to be unadvisable if the increasing expansion of external commerce and trade be taken into consideration. The political aspect of the question, too, should not be overlooked in arriving at a decision with regard to the proposed measure. The metropolis of British India should not be without a Mint, which has always been considered as an emblem of sovereign power, for the sake of questionable economy.

The Committee are glad to inform you that the proposal for abolishing the Calcutta Mint has been abandoned.

DISCIPLINE AND MORAL TRAINING IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

On the 16th of January last the Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal forwarded a copy of a letter from the Government of India in the Home Department,—No. 10-384, dated 31st December last, with enclosure,—on the subject of Disci-

pline and Moral Training in Schools and Colleges, and requested the opinion of the Association on the points discussed therein. Your Committee on the 3rd of March last submitted their reply. They observed that as there was a growing decadence in our boys and young men of respect for authority, which was calculated to produce disastrous effects, it was highly desirable that some such measure as was contemplated by Government should be adopted to stamp out the evil complained of in time.

Great stress has been laid by Government on religious instruction for the purpose of enforcing proper discipline in Schools and Colleges and for the promotion of moral, physical and intellectual education. As the religious systems of this country differ in broad principles from one another, your Committee thought it impossible so to devise a method for regulating religious instruction as would suit the followers of all the different systems When the tendency of modern times is everywhere to secularise education it would be a matter of doubtful expediency to think of introducing religious instruction in Indian Schools and Colleges. Although the Committee disapproved of all dogmatic religious teaching, they still approved of the introduction of a moral textbook which should discuss man's position as a member of Society and the duties which appertain to such position. Your Committee also approved of the suggestion made by Government for the provision of choice books in School Libraries for furnishing wholesome reading to boys. Regarding the provision for the training and employment of teachers your Committee observed that the object aimed at could not be attained by the proposal made. Educational work not being very remunerative the best men in the country do not take up such work. With regard to the proposal for getting trained head-masters from England, your Committee thought that perhaps the funds at the disposal of the Education Department would not allow of sufficient salary being offered to properly qualified Englishmen to come out as teachers to India. The suggestion for devising a system of teaching having a direct bearing upon conduct was certainly a good one; but the Committee laid great stress on the influence of good example within and outside the School walls which would enable the teachers to impart a healthy tone to the conduct of their pupils. The conduct and character of the rising generation seems at present to be greatly moulded by outside influences. Keeping conduct registers with prizes for good conduct and the extension of boarding arrangements might, the Committee observed, also produce some good effect, but they were not sanguine about their being able to eradicate the evil.

Referring to the remarks of Government that "disorderly conduct during the closing years of school career would seriously affect the candidates' prospects of obtaining official employment after leaving school," your Committee submitted that the punishment proposed would inflict a serious injury on a young man who out of boyish freak becomes guilty of breach of discipline; reprimand and rustication are the proper remedies for such conduct.

The question of punishment in Schools was treated on a sound principle, but the Committee disapproved of the suggestion of expelling a boy from school for his not attaining a certain standard of study at a certain age.

The subject is still under the consideration of Government.

Note on the Government of India's answer to Mr. S. Smith regarding the increase of drunkenness in India.

On the 7th of February last, your Committee sent at London a Note on the Government of India's reply to Mr. S. Smith regarding the increase of drunkenness in India. They observed that the Congress did not say that India was sober and that it had been made drunken under the British rule. The Congress only held that "the habits of intem- "perance are greatly on the increase in Bengal and "other parts of India and in Burmah and that this "is largely due to the extension of spirit licenses "granted for purposes of excise revenue."

The Government of India referred to a paper of Dr. Rajendralala Mitra and to a Budhist drama, showing that the practice of drinking was in existence in ancient India. They also quoted other authorities proving that the practice prevailed during Mahomedan rule. But they did not prove whether the practice then prevailed to a large or to a small extent. And they are, therefore, scarcely right in concluding that "the prevalence of drinking habits "was then quite as much complained of" as now.

The Committee pointed out that the report of the Bengal Excise Commission showed that there had been a very serious increase in drunkenness in many parts of Bengal and Behar, and that the, consumption of spirits had increased in eight years —*i. e.* from 1875-76 to 1883-84—from 1,946,621 to 2,368,737 gallons.

The Government of India, ignoring the fact that the increased consumption of spirits is due to the "system by which the right to license outstills is farmed to the highest bidder," stated that this system was introduced as the only means of taxing the consumption and of providing against illicit distillation in scantily inhabited tracts and in places bordering on Native States, and that outside these narrow limits the system might be described as ineffectual. The information which the Committee supplied on the subject was availed of in the debate which took place in Parliament in regard to the excise revenue of Government. The Committee are anxiously waiting for the publication of the report of Mr. Westmacott who was appointed by the Bengal Government to enquire into and report on the subject of outstills and for orders of the Government on that report.

Court Fees.

Your Committee submitted on the 10th of February last, for the consideration and orders of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice and the other Judges of the High Court, their representations regarding the widely made complaint in these provinces on the subject of the heavy costs incurred in the trial of rent-suits and other suits of small values and in the execution of decrees of such suits.

Rent suits and other suits of a civil nature were treated indiscriminately by Act VII of 1870. It removed the exemptions from Court fees in certain particulars which earlier legislation had provided for suits of small values, and took away that encouragement to compromises and amicable settlements of disputes which had been recognised in all the stamp laws passed since 1793. Thus it would be seen, your Committee observed, that the fees imposed before 1870 in suits between landlords and tenants and in other suits of small values, were much lighter than those imposed in such suits at present. In rent suits the amounts claimed are not exclusively payable to the plaintiffs, but a large portion from half to ten-elevenths have to be paid to Government, and in suits of small values the Court fees and process-fees swell up to amounts very disproportionate to the amounts of the claims. Again, rent being a periodically recurring cause of action the landholders and tenants have to come to Court more frequently and bear recoverable and irrecoverable charges to a much larger extent than any other class of suitors.

On the legislation of 1870 ignoring all these considerations the land-holders and their tenants have suffered much for the last 17 years. As in a large number of suits decreed ex- parte and other uncontested suits the inevitable costs of trial and the execution of decrees rise to double or treble the amount of the original claims; in contested suits the costs are usually much greater. The operation of the present law relating to Court-fees and process-fees has undoubtedly been very oppressive both to landholders and their tenants.

Your Committee quoted in support of their prayer an extract from a letter of the Registrar of the High Court which conveyed the views of their Lordships the Judges to the Government of India; "A reduction in the fees to their original standard would afford very appreciable relief to landlords and though some loss would be incurred by the Government the revenue derived from Court-fees so largely exceeds the expenditure on Civil Courts and establishments that it might be possible to give up some portion of the surplus for the benefit of the suitors. Some relief might also be given by holding out to ryots inducements to compromise their suits or not to defend them similarly to those provided in Small Causes by Act XV of 1882, Sec. 73."

Your Committee prayed that the Hon'ble Court might be pleased to move His Excellency the Governor-General to reduce the Court-fee for plaints in suits for recovery of rent and for moneys in the hands of agents to one-fourth the present fee; to reduce the Court-fee on plaints in other suits between landlords and tenants to 8 annas only; to exempt from Court-fee all petitions and applications filed in suits of less value than Rs. 50 between landlords and tenants, and to limit the fee to one anna only in other cases; to exempt copies of judgment and decrees in such suits from Court fee; to declare that Vakalutnamah filed in a suit would be good for purposes of execution of the decree passed in the suit, and to declare that the plaintiff in a suit would be entitled to a refund of the whole amount of the fee on plaint if the suit be withdrawn or compromised before the settlement of issues and half the fee after settlement.

The Hon'ble Court was also asked to limit the summons fee in a suit to 4 annas for all summons served upon defendants or witnesses residing in a village; to reduce the warrant fee to 4 annas in regard to every witness; to reduce the fee for arrest of defendants in execution of decree to 4 annas only; to reduce the fee for proclamations for sale to 4 annas only; and to reduce the fee for sales in execution to one per cent of the sale-proceeds.

The receipt of your Committee's letter was acknowledged by the Registrar by direction of the Chief Justice, but no action has been taken by the Court in the matter evidently by reason of the statement made by the Hon'ble Finance Member in March last from his place in the Viceroy's Council that the financial position of the Government of India would not permit of any proposal for the reduction of the rate of Court-fees for some time to come.

Imprisonment for debt.

Your Committee, on the 8th of March last, submitted their remarks on the provisions of the revised Bill to amend the Law relating to Imprisonment for Debt for the consideration of the Legislative Council. They observed that they were aware that the social and economic conditions of the country force many people to borrow money at certain periods of the year, and that the measure was intended for the protection of the agricultural classes from hardship and the general community from vindictive prosecution; but they were bound to declare that so far as the agricultural classes were concerned the Bill proposed to take away the good which was conferred on the people by the abolition of the usury laws and that the measure ignored the deterrent effect of the existing law. The Committee felt it their duty

therefore, to enter their strong protest against the measure, on the 14th of August 1880, when this Bill was originally introduced in the Council with the avowed object of abolishing imprisonment for debt.

The Bill as amended and revised by the Select Committee provided for service of a notice upon the debtor when application was made for his arrest to show cause why process should not issue. This, the Committee observed, would frustrate the very object for which the process was applied for, as the debtor would get sufficient opportunity of secreting in time his goods and chattels liable to attachment or sale in order to evade the service of the process. The provision in the Civil Procedure Code for imprisonment for debt has had hitherto a wholesome effect in inducing debtors to pay their debts and deterring fraudulent debtors from trying to evade the payment of their just liabilities. A debtor whose effects fall short of his debts should have the privilege of challenging enquiry and seeking the protection of the Court before he could be imprisoned. To deter such people from their fraudulent conduct and culpable improvidence the provision for imprisonment should be retained. Your Committee further submitted that the power which the law has vested in creditors cannot as a rule be exercised for vindictive and other unworthy purposes, for relief is granted to honest debtors under Chapter XX. of the C. P. Code. The proposed change in the law would, therefore, seriously paralyse the circulation of capital and do incalculable harm to those for whose benefit it is intended. The Bill should not be made applicable, the Committee earnestly suggested, to the execution of decrees in suits for rent. Great difficulty has been put in the way of recovering rent by the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act and the landholders would be in a manner ruined, if one of the most effectual safeguards against fraud, recusancy and culpable improvidence be removed. It would deprive landholders in these provinces of an effectual remedy.

The Bill was passed by the Council after some of the modifications suggested by the Committee had been made in it; but they regret to observe that the provisions of the law have been made applicable to decrees in rent suits as well as other suits.

Unit of Lineal Measure.

On the 24th of March last the Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal with his letter No. 518, forwarded a copy of a Bill to declare the Imperial Standard yard for the United Kingdom to be the standard measure of length in British India and requested the opinion of your Association on the subject. Your Committee in reply stated that the proposed enactment was certainly needed to supply a defect in the law which they thought had never been noticed A positive enactment defining what was the Standard measure of length is very essential for administering justice, both criminal and civil. And they considered that the English standard was the best that could be adopted for British India. They had submitted their views on the subject in their letter to Government on the 4th of November last. And they were glad to find that Government intended to define what should be the legal standard of measure and not to supersede the different local measures of ength by a uniform measure.

Bengal Municipal Act III of 1884.

On the 11th of May last, your Committee submitted for the consideration of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal their suggestions regarding the Bill to amend the Bengal Municipal Act III of 1884.

They stated that the object of the Bill was to exclude from the operation of Municipal Regulations, lands and buildings in the occupation of the State for Military and Naval purposes. The Hon'ble Mr. Macaulay in introducing the Bill had represented that the dangers which the Government sought to guard against were undue assessment and undue interference regarding which references were distinctly made in the Imperial Taxation Act XI of 1881, whereby the interests of Municipalities no less than those of the State had been sufficiently protected. Your Committee submitted that the provisions in Sections 5 and 9 of the Bill had been so drafted as to deprive Maffusil Municipalities of heavy sums of money. As the Municipalities would not be relieved of their duties regarding roads, conservancy and sanitation within their boundaries by the exclusion of any buildings from within their limits, some sort of provision should, therefore, be made by which the Municipalities could derive a sum of money to make good their loss. This question was once raised in the Viceregal Council in 1881 and His Excellency said that "it was worthy of consideration by Government in Executive Council whether it would not be desirable to issue a circular to Local Government after the Bill had been passed suggesting that they should appoint a person to communicate with the Municipalities with a view to settling what Government should pay towards the Municipal rates." This was the course followed in England. The right of the Crown on behalf of Crown property to exemption from rates had been maintained and a sum settled in each case was paid to the Municipality in the place of Crown rates. A provision to that effect was, therefore, made in the Municipal Taxation Act of 1881 (Act XI of 1881), Section 5.

Your Committee, therefore, suggested that to guard against the apprehended diminution of Municipal revenues in the cases affected by the proposed measure a provision similar to Section 5 of Act XI of 1881, should be made in the Bill.

The Committee regret to observe that an amendment to this effect proposed in the Council was negatived by a majority of votes.

Limits of Calcutta.

Your Committee, on the 12th of June last, forwarded a memorial to the Assistant Secretary, Government of Bengal, Legislative Department, for submission to His Excellency the Viceroy in Council regarding the revised Calcutta Municipal Bill which awaits the assent of His Excellency to become a law of the land. They represented that the measure contains much that would prove hurtful and injurious to the interests of the native inhabitants of the metropolis and contravene to a wide extent the liberal and broad principles of local Self-Government.

The Committee invited the attention of His Excellency to the legal difficulty of amalgamating Calcutta with the Suburbs. They represented that neither His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor nor his Council had any authority to extend the limits of Calcutta. By 33 Geo. 3, C. 52 it was enacted that whenever any question should arise touching the limits and extent of Calcutta His Excellency the Governor-General in Council should, after due enquiry, prescribe the limits of the Town of Calcutta. In accordance thereto a Proclamation, fixing the limits of Calcutta, was issued by the Governor-General in Council on the 10th of September, 1794.

In the 55th year of the reign of His Majesty George III another Act was passed amending so much of an Act of the 33rd year of His Majesty as related to fixing the limits of the towns of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.

The Governor General in Council was by this Statute (55 Geo 3. C 84. Sec. 1) invested with further powers to extend the limits of Calcutta. It is, therefore, in the power of the Governor-General in Council alone to exercise the powers conferred by the Act. The Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for making laws do not exercise greater powers than those exercised by the Councils of Madras and Bombay, and Sec. 42 of the Indian Councils' Act provides that the Government of St. George and Bombay "shall not have the power of making any "laws or regulations which shall in any way affect "any of the provisions of this Act, or of any other "Act of Parliament in force, or hereafter to be "in force in such Presidency."

The 3rd Section of the Municipal Bill, your Committee observed, extends the limits of Calcutta, which is directly in contravention of 55 Geo. 3. C. 84 and is in violation of Sec 42 of the Indian Council's Act.

Again, in the Schedule appended to the Municipal Bill in which the Acts which have been repealed are mentioned, Section 1 of 55 Geo. 3 C. 84 is not included, which being still in force, Sec. 3 of the Municipal Bill, is invalid and ineffectual.

Your Committee drew the attention of His Excellency to Section I of 55 Geo. 3, C. 84, and Sections 151, 158 and 159 of 33 Geo. 3. C. 52. Those sections would clearly show that neither the Lieutenant-Governor nor his Council possessed any authority to extend the limits of Calcutta. The Governor General in Council alone has the power under the statutes mentioned above to make such an extension for Municipal purposes.

Your Committee's Memorial is still under the consideration of His Excellency in Council.

Subjects under Consideration.

The following subjects are under the consideration of the Committee :—

(1.) Reform of the Maffussil Police.

(2.) Parallel Lines of Promotion in the Civil Service in connection with the administration of Civil Justice.

(2.) Civil Court Ameens.

Obituary

The Committee regret to announce the loss which the Association has sustained by the death of Babu Kassi Kissore Ray Chowdhury of Mymensing.

Raja Durga Churn Law, in addressing the meeting, said :

Gentlemen,—The report just read by the Secretary gives a statement of the work done by the Association during the past six months. Besides those mentioned in the report there are several other important subjects which are engaging the attention of your Committee at the present moment. At our last annual meeting I made some remarks in which I alluded to the unsatisfactory financial position of the country, since when these frontier wars have become an unpleasant necessity, and in consequence of this the outlook remains as gloomy as ever, notwithstanding some improvement in exchange and the value of opium. Under present circumstances we have no alternative but to look on and hope for the best. The question which directly concerns the Calcutta public is the Calcutta Municipal Act, which, as you are aware, passed through the Bengal Council in May last. It was referred in the usual course to the Viceroy in Council for his assent. We learn from the newspapers that this assent has now been given. How far this information is correct we do not know. If the announcement prove to be true it would certainly be a matter of great disappointment to the rate-payers of Calcutta. It is now for you to consider as to whether any and what further steps

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should be taken in connection with this measure. I see in the papers this morning that a Bill is to be introduced in the Supreme Council to supplement certain provisions of the Act. What this means, I don't know; still it would seem as if the Act will be eventually passed. The next subject I wish to refer to is the distress of the people in consequence of the late cyclone and the inundation. You are all aware of the extent of the damage which has been done to the crops by this calamity. In many places the poor ryots have become houseless and are suffering from scarcity and high price of food, and their distress can be better imagined than described. Relief measures have already been organised by Government in Orissa. We do not know yet whether they will be required in other parts of the country. If they are, the sooner they are taken in hand, the better. If it be found necessary, public subscriptions might be raised to supplement the efforts of Government in this direction. It is now my painful duty to announce to you the sad death of Babu Joykissen Mukerjee. This melancholy event took place in July last. The Half-yearly Report closes with the 30th of June, and it has not therefore been possible to include in it any mention of the action taken by your Committee with regard to the loss we have sustained, which is simply irreparable. I will now read to you the resolution which your Committee have recorded on the subject:—"The managing Committee of the British Indian Association desire to place on record their deep sense of the irreparable loss sustained by the Association by the death of Babu Joykissen Mookerjee. They mourn in this melancholy event the loss of one of their most esteemed colleagues, who had since the foundation of the Association greatly helped them by his co-operation. Babu Joykissen Mukerjee was one of the founders of the Association, and a member of its Executive Committee from the day of its establishment. He likewise acted on several occasions as one of its Vice-Presidents, and in every capacity, he served the Association most loyally and faithfully. His energy, activity, experience and business capacity eminently fitted him for the public life he always led; and he was foremost in every political movement undertaken during the past fifty years. As a landed proprietor, it was but natural for him to take a prominent part in those questions which concerned the well-being of zemindars; but he was no less mindful of the good of the community at large. Gifted with a liberal mind and keen political foresight, and possessed of a thorough knowledge alike of the minutiæ of zemindari management as of the work of public administration, Babu Joykissen Mukerjee brought to the counsels of the Association an an amount of help that contributed most materially to its success." I may add here that in grateful remembrance of his valuable services, the Committee have resolved to have a portrait of his hung up in this hall, in which there are already the likenesses of some of the distinguished members of the Association who have left us for a better world, and among which Babu Joykissen's portrait will find a fitting reception. (Applause)

The Maharaja Sir Norendro Krishna Bahadoor said:—

Gentlemen,—The report placed on the table begins with an account of the New Municipal Bill which contemplates the amalgamation of a large portion of the suburbs with the town. The Government of Bengal has requested us to express our opinion on that subject, also on the other provisions of the Bill; but has not favoured us with the grounds on which we can base our opinion on the possibility or otherwise of the proposed scheme of amalgamation. A Committee consisting of officials and others was appointed to enquire into the matter which held several meetings to deliberate upon this important question, and has, I believe, submitted its report in favor of the new project according to the light possessed by its members, without inviting the public to come forward and give their evidence regarding the satisfactory working of the measure. Without imposing additional business on the citizens of Calcutta for making improvements in the suburbs, with which they have no immediate concern, undoubtedly improving its sanitation is a desirable aim; but the Government should not expect the people to contribute to an object which does not benefit them, and when it has at its disposal a large amount annually received from the excise revenue a portion of which ought to be legitimately applied in effecting improvements to the additions proposed to be made to the town. We have before dwelt on the nature of the change in the constitution of the Corporation proposed by the Bill, and on the various provisions contained in it, which would work injuriously to the interests of the public. The report next alludes to the threatened abolition of the Calcutta Mint by transferring its coming operation to that of Bombay, but we doubt the capacity of the latter institution to supply the coinage required for the whole country, including Burma, Ceylon and other places, without incurring additional heavy expenditure for such a purpose. The Government, I am glad to observe, has thought prudent not to try the experiment by depriving the Metropolis of its useful mint. The report then deals with the question of discipline and moral training in colleges and schools in which the Association was invited by Government to express its opinion. It is highly desirable to inculcate on the minds of the boys as a part of their training the observance of respectful attitude in their personal contact with their superiors to impart to them moral instructions in accordance with the teachings of their religion, in adoring and revering the great God who rules the Universe, comprised of all nationalties. With this view, moral text books should be introduced in these institutions, the preparation of which should be entrusted to the learned men of the Education Department. (Applause.)

Baboo Brojendro Coomar Roy Chowdry then moved, and Baboo Benode Behary Mullick seconded, that the report be adopted.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS.

The President said:—Gentlemen,—Your Committee have desired me to lay before you the names of two distinguished gentlemen for election as honorary members of the Association. These two names are Rao Saheb Vishvanath Naryan Mandlick and Mr. Dadabhai Nowrojee, both of Bombay. Both of them have in a manner, consecrated their lives to the service of their country, and in honoring them we honor ourselves. I feel sure that you will cordially support the recommendations of the Committee.

Both gentlemen were unanimously elected.

ELECTION OF ORDINARY MEMBERS.

The following gentlemen were then elected ordinary members of the Association:—Baboo Kannye Lal Khan, Baboo Kissen Chunder Roy, Baboo Deva Prasad Sarvadhikari, Baboo Girish Chunder Roy, Baboo Jogendro Kissore Roy Chowdry, and Raja Jogendra Deb Bahadoor.

Babu Issur Chundra Mitter said:

Sir,—It was about this time last year that attention was drawn here to the evils of the outstill system. Since then the Association has been in correspondence with the Temperance Congress in England, in reference to the observations made by the Government of India in regard to the allegation, said to have been made in England that she had found India sober and had made it drunk. Antiquarian researches as to the state of insobriety in this country in ancient or prehistoric times, were perfectly irrelevant. All that is necessary is to see, whether drunkenness has increased, and this has been clearly established and it is hoped that the evil will be now met in the face.

Another subject of importance,—to which my friend (Babu Kunjolal Banerjee) who long adorned the bench drew the attention of the Association,—was the reform of the Mofussil police. He perhaps, as beseems one who had long been a judge, looks upon the faults of the police with a severe and critical eye. I am rather partial to them for an equally long time I worked with the police. I attribute all their faults to their miserable pay. But is there any hope of ameliorating their condition in these days of chronic deficit in the Exchequer? Witness the big tomes of the Salaries Commission—the Commissions on the salaries of the poor Amlas Commissions are the graves in which questions of interest which agitate the public mind for a time are interred perhaps never to be disentombed again, the reports are relegated to a portion of the record room which may be designated a limbus of unfruitful labor and unfulfilled expectations.

I shall now refer to the distress which is said to prevail in certain parts of the country—a subject which has been already adverted to by our worthy President.

In regard to the distress in Khoorda (Orissa) the published reports show that there had been several cases of death by starvations before the authorities attempted to grapple with it. I do not blame them for this, for there was no agency in the interior which could furnish accurate and reliable information to the authorities in time, Mr. Taylor the Sub-Divisional officer, has, in reference to the cases of death by starvation, observed that the apathy of the people themselves was much to blame. I for one, cannot see what people pinched with want and hunger are to do to make their condition known to the authorities.

As to the flooded tracts we have official reports as to the loss of crops, but none as to any distress prevailing. My suggestion is this, that the Association should communicate with influential gentlemen in the interior—land-holders and others,—ascertain the extent of distress that was actually prevailing and, if the distress was found to be great, concert measures towards its relief in co-operation with Government and in the way suggested by the President.

VOTES OF THANKS.

The Hon'ble Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee thanked the Chairman for the cordial terms in which he had spoken of his (the speaker's) late father's connection with the Association, and the Committee for the resolutions which they had passed.

A vote of thanks was then passed to the chair after which the meeting separated.